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CBI **summons actor and TVK chief Vijay on March 10 for 3rd round of questioning** in connection with Sept 2025 Karur stampede in which 41 people were killed. He was earlier questioned on Jan 12 & 19, P 6

Anthropic sues Trump admn to block Pentagon from placing it on a national security blacklist, calls it retaliation for refusal to let Claude be used for lethal warfare and mass surveillance, P 19

IS-inspired terror attack? New York authorities investigating incident in which **two men allegedly brought IEDs to a protest outside mayor Mamdani's residence**, P 19

Next goal is Olympic gold and the T20 World Cup that year, says captain Suryakumar Yadav after historic Ahd win. Cricket returns to Olympics at Los Angeles 2028 for first time since 1900, P 21

Even toddlers now spend hours on screens, and mental health experts say the fallout is showing up in their clinics. From anxiety, aggression, obesity and self-harm to risky online relationships, **children are grappling with problems their parents scarcely understand.** A new series examines **how smartphones are reshaping childhoods** | P 12

Oil tops $100, nears 4-yr high as Saudis cut prodn

No Plan To Raise Fuel Prices In India: Official

TNN & Agencies

Oil prices surged to $120 a barrel before retreating to $102 Monday as Saudi Arabia was reported to be cutting output, adding to the supply squeeze due to disruption in the Strait of Hormuz.

Finance ministers of developed G7 nations, who met Monday evening, deferred plans to tap their strategic reserves to cool down the global flare-up in prices, while vowing to keep close tabs on the evolving supply situation.

Although Brent prices touched the highest level seen since mid-2022, govt officials said there was no immediate plan to increase pump prices of fuel in India. "We are nicely placed vis-a-vis crude. There is unlikely to be a rise in petrol and diesel prices in the foreseeable future, even if prices remain at $110-120 a barrel," said a senior govt official.

FULL COVERAGE: P 2, 6, 11, 13, 17, 18, 19, EDIT
▶War hits LNG flow, P 6
▶Continued on P 13

MARKETS SINGED

- Sensex tanks **1,353pts (1.7%),** settles at **11-month low** of 77,566. Nifty drops **422pts (1.7%)** to end at 24,028
- Re closes at all-time low of **92.33 against dollar, down 58p from Friday (91.75),** pressured by oil prices, stronger dollar and foreign portfolio outflows
- Silver falls by **₹3,400 to ₹2.68L/kg;** gold trades flat at **₹1,64,300/10g** in Delhi

Khamenei's son Mojtaba is Iran's supreme leader

Iran chose Mojtaba Khamenei, the hardline son of the slain Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, as its new supreme leader. Mojtaba, 56, the second son of Khamenei, first joined the Revolutionary Guard after high school and served during the latter period of Iran's war with Iraq (1980-88). He went on to study with the country's most esteemed clerics in Qom and to teach in a seminary, forging ties with the religious leadership as he did with the Guard.

US President Donald Trump told New York Post he was "not happy" about the appointment. Mojtaba lost his father, mother, wife and a son in the US-Israeli strikes. P 19

LS washout on Day 1 as oppn raises W Asia conflict

New Delhi: The opposition's noisy demand for a discussion on the West Asia conflict instead of moving on its own resolution for removal of Speaker Om Birla washed out Lok Sabha's proceedings on Monday when Parliament met following a recess. The govt accused Congress and its allies of preferring theatrics to parliamentary process.

Indications emerged that the resolution against Birla can be debated from Tuesday. Govt sources said the discussion may take over 10 hours and stretch over two days, noting that its initiation depends on Congress, whose members had moved the resolution accusing Birla of "partisan" conduct. TNN

▶Oppn set to move CEC removal notice, P 13
▶W Asia conflict, P 13

Counselling ends, no takers for 783 medical PG seats in Karnataka

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Bengaluru: With counselling ending on Saturday, 783 of 4,773 postgraduate medical seats — or 16% — have remained unfilled in Karnataka. The PG seats were available for counselling through Karnataka Examinations Authority. Around 14,400 students registered for counselling and 10,000 entered options for medical PG through KEA.

According to experts, several factors have contributed to this. First, addition of 967 seats in one year. Second, long counselling cycles. Third, most of these seats are under management quota with annual fees ranging from Rs 25,000 for an anatomy seat to Rs 1.3 crore for a dermatology seat in private colleges.

What makes this year's trends different is that seats in coveted streams are vacant. There were 500 general medicine seats available, of which 37 are vacant. In MD radiodiagnosis, 35 of 287 seats found no takers. In general surgery, 11 of 425 seats were unfilled. Dermatology had 15 of 196 seats and paediatrics had 25 of 362 seats vacant.

PROBLEM OF PLENTY

- Experts say several factors, including 967 additional seats, **long counselling cycles & high fees for management quota seats,** contributed to vacancy
- **Of the 500 general-medicine seats, 37 vacant;** no takers for 35 seats in MD radiodiagnosis

> It is sad seats are vacant even when hundreds of students repeat the exam, vying for seats... Subsidise mgmt seats & make them affordable
> — **Bhagavan BC** | RGUHS VC

▶Mgmt quota seats, P 3

36hrs on, juvenile suspect arrested in Ballari school murder case

Ballari: Police on Monday apprehended an absconding juvenile suspect in connection with the March 7 murder at a private residential school here. The juvenile allegedly attacked and killed one of his classmates during an altercation.

While D Hemanth died, seven other students, including a girl, and the hostel warden sustained injuries in the late-night incident when the suspect reportedly went on a rampage with an iron rod. After an extensive search, Ballari rural police traced the accused juvenile boy near a private layout in Ballari and took him into custody within 36 hours of the crime.

Police said the class 9 student was subjected to a medical examination late Monday evening and would be produced before the district judge on Tuesday. TNN

▶CCTV footage, P 4

Anekal realtor killed; biz partner under lens

A realtor from Anekal was allegedly kidnapped and murdered, with his body dumped near Denkanikottai in Tamil Nadu on Monday. The victim's now-estranged business partner is under the scanner. P 3

Sharjeel gets bail to attend bro's wedding

A Delhi court on Monday granted 10 days of interim bail to Sharjeel Imam, who is an accused in 2020 Delhi riots case, to attend his brother's wedding. It granted the relief from March 20-30. P 13

Know Namma Karnataka?
SCAN THE O!
Scan the QR & answer the quiz question. Correct answer will be revealed tomorrow!
*T&C Apply
Yesterday's answer: Manish Pandey

India had allowed 3 Iranian vessels to dock, says EAM

India had promptly accepted the requests from 3 Iranian naval vessels, including IRIS Dena, to dock at Indian ports, said foreign minister S Jaishankar in a statement to both Houses of Parliament on the security situation in West Asia.

He also said "our national interest, including energy security and trade flows, will always be paramount". The minister's statement is seen as indicative of the govt's decision not to condemn the US and Israel for attacking Iran and killing its supreme leader. P 11

City eateries face LPG supply disruption, warn of shutdown

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Bengaluru: Amid growing geopolitical tension in West Asia, hotels and self-service eateries across Bengaluru Monday reported a shortage of commercial LPG cylinders, raising fears of disruption in the city's food services.

The Bangalore Hotels Association has cautioned that many small and medium-scale eateries may be forced to shut operations temporarily if the current situation persists. P C Rao, honorary president of the association, said: "Only about 10% of hotels & restaurants in Bengaluru received LPG supply today. We have gas to keep our kitchens running only until Tuesday afternoon or evening."

LPG cylinder wait time raised to 25 days

Govt has raised minimum wait time for booking a domestic LPG cylinder refill from 21 days to 25 to prevent hoarding. Officials said govt has issued a new order to ramp up LPG production while dispelling rumours of an oil shortage. TNN

▶'No substantial impact', P 18
▶Domestic consumers, P 3

B'luru tax officer duped of ₹31 lakh by 'astrologer'

An income tax officer was allegedly cheated of gold, silver and cash worth Rs 31 lakh by a self-styled 'astrologer' who promised to perform certain rituals to improve the former's personal life and career, **reports Chaithanya Swamy.** Ramesh (name changed), posted in Koramangala, met roadside 'parrot-reader' Shekhar last Dec.

After initially paying him Rs 50,000 for a ritual, Ramesh handed over 194g gold and 1.3kg silver ornaments on Feb 20. Shekhar then threatened the victim and fled with the valuables. P 3

Supply deficit: Govt halts online sale of Mys silk saris

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Bengaluru: With orders outstripping supply, state govt has suspended online sale of the hugely popular Mysuru silk saris, which carry a blend of pure mulberry silk, gold zari, and silver threads.

Sericulture minister K Venkatesh told the legislative assembly Monday that online sale of saris produced by Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation had been stopped so that limited stock could be prioritised for buyers visiting its exclusive outlets.

KSIC had launched online sales to make saris, which have been granted GI tag, accessible to customers outside the state.

3L SARIS IN 3 YRS

- State sericulture minister K Venkatesh says online sales of Mysuru silk saris **will resume once production stabilises**
- **KSIC,** which has been making saris since 1912, **currently produces 300-400 saris a day.** Collective output at over 3L saris in past 3 years
- Minister says **KSIC recorded a profit of ₹101cr in 2024-25,** ₹73cr in '23-24 & ₹46cr in '22-23

▶Only 1k saris unsold, P 4

Liquor case: HC slams spl court's observation

New Delhi: Delhi HC Monday said that a special court's observation made against witnesses and approvers in the liquor policy case while discharging ex-CM Arvind Kejriwal and others appear "prima facie erroneous".

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, admitting the CBI's revision plea, has sought responses from the 23 accused discharged in the case. It also stayed the special court judge's sharp criticism of the CBI's lead investigating officer in the liquor policy case.

▶Erroneous trial court, P 13

Seamaster
PLANET OCEAN

For Glen Powell, the ocean is calling. Inspired by a sense of endless possibility, the charismatic actor has taken his career in almost every direction, with roles in action, drama, and romance. On his wrist, the redesigned Planet Ocean echoes that same spirit. A Co-Axial Master Chronometer collection that embodies the sea and the infinite desire to always push further.

OMEGA

Courts not a stage for vendetta over failed relationships: HC

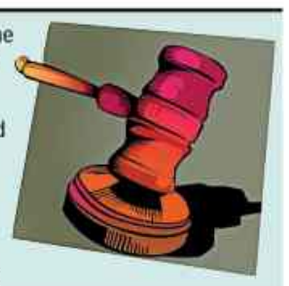
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: If every broken relationship were to be clothed in the garb of criminality, the courts would transform into forums of personal vendetta rather than forums of justice, the Karnataka high court has observed.

It made the remark in a recent judgment while quashing investigation against a software professional hailing from Surathkal, Dakshina Kannada district. The complainant alleged that she had been cheated by the petitioner — the software professional — on the promise of marriage. Section 69 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) punishes the offence of inducing women to engage in sexual intercourse by deceitful means, including by giving false promises of marriage.

"Time and again, the Supreme Court has clarified that consensual relationships between adults cannot be retroactively criminalised because one party withdraws from the relationship. A promise of marriage becomes 'false' in law only when it is shown that the promise was a mere ruse, a deceitful stratagem, never intended to be honoured. A subsequent change of mind, emotional incompatibility, familial opposition, or mere reluctance does not transmute into criminal intent at inception," Justice M Nagaprasanna observed in his order while allowing the plea filed by the 35-year-old petitioner.

> The criminal justice system and the instrument of state power cannot be permitted to become a weapon in private disputes arising out of failed relationships. The facts, even if accepted in toto, disclose nothing beyond a relationship that did not culminate in matrimony. To permit investigation in such circumstances would not advance justice; it would distort it
>
> **Justice Nagaprasanna** | KARNATAKA HC JUDGE



RELIEF FOR ENGINEER

The narrative in this case began in Ireland. In Aug 2021, the petitioner met the complainant when he was pursuing his master's degree in international management at the National University of Ireland. She too was studying there. Their friendship turned into a relationship.

The petitioner got a job as well, and from Dec 2022, the couple started living together. However, in mid-2024, when the petitioner came to know that the complainant had been married and had a seven-year-old son, their relationship began to sour. On Oct 19, 2024, she came back to India and registered a complaint against him at the women's police station in Mangaluru for offences punishable under Sections 69 and 115 (2) of BNS, alleging that he had cheated her on the promise of marriage. The petitioner challenged the FIR, and on Jan 16, 2025, the high court granted a stay on the investigation.

According to him, the complainant, who is five years older than him, has alleged that because of him, she sought divorce from her husband, even though that relationship had soured long back. He claimed that the physical relationship between them was consensual and that there was no promise of marriage, as claimed by her. On the other hand, the complainant insisted that the physical relationship between them was based on the promise of marriage held out by him.

Justice Nagaprasanna noted that it spoke about companionship, cohabitation, shared domesticity, and consensual intimacy extending over two years, all in Ireland, and not coercion, deception at inception, or force, as alleged by the complainant.

What followed was not an allegation of violence but an allegation of betrayal. Therefore, it was not a case of having sexual intercourse on deceit from inception. "It is trite that the law does not criminalise heartbreak," the judge added, quashing the FIR registered against the petitioner.

Week-long Saudi ordeal ends as Umrah pilgrims return to B'luru

How TOI & NGO Helped Stranded Group In Medina

Vindhya.Pabolu@timesofindia.com

Pics: TOI

Bengaluru: As the aircraft began its descent into Bengaluru, Shehla Rukhsar could not hold back her tears. The 37-year-old homemaker, from Shampura near Kaval Byrasandra in north Bengaluru, had left her two children behind when she departed for Umrah pilgrimage on Feb 15, certain she would return from Saudi Arabia in two weeks. Instead, an unexpected ordeal kept her stranded in Medina for days. On Monday morning, as the flight captain announced the landing, the thought of seeing her children again overwhelmed her.

Shehla was not alone. More than 50 Umrah pilgrims from Bengaluru, who had been stranded in Medina, finally returned home after nearly a week of uncertainty, flight cancellations, and mounting anxiety. When the group walked out of the arrival gates at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) around 10am, emotional reunions unfolded — families embracing, smiles replacing days of fear and exhaustion.

The routine pilgrimage had taken a sudden turn on the evening of March 1, when the group learnt that its return flight had been cancelled amid escalating tensions in West Asia. Airport shutdowns and airspace restrictions left the pilgrims stranded with little information on when services would resume. The group included elderly pilgrims, women, and toddlers, and the uncertainty quickly turned stressful as accommodation costs rose and hotel owners asked them to vacate.

According to the pilgrims, the hardest part was not knowing what would happen next. While life around them in Medina appeared normal, they struggled to book new tickets or secure accommodation. "Everyone around us was going about their day like nothing had happened, and we were the only ones stuck, unable to return home," said one pilgrim. "We contacted the Indian Embassy, and someone from the state govt called us once. But after we explained everything, nothing happened despite multiple messages and calls... Nobody was there to say that you are our people and we will take care of you. That was the saddest thing."

For Syed Waseem, 36, who had travelled with five family members, the situation became frightening when their medicines ran out. His mother, who had undergone open-heart surgery a year ago, needed multiple daily medications. "We assumed we would be back in 14 days, so we carried only that much medicine," he said. "When it ran out, we panicked. Medicines in Saudi Arabia were different from those in India, so we had to search for alternatives for every dose, for blood pressure, diabetes, cholesterol, and blood thinners."

The first two days were especially difficult. Many of the pilgrims stayed awake through the night, calling relatives, travel agents, and authorities, desperately trying to find a solution. The **Times of India**, which learnt of their situation, highlighted their ordeal in a report titled 'Savings run out for 50 pilgrims', published on March 2. Soon after the report appeared, Active Bengaluru Foundation, a city-based non-profit, alerted its network in Saudi Arabia and reached out to the stranded group. The organisation helped cover half of the accommodation expenses, easing the immediate financial burden while the group waited for flight services to resume.

For the pilgrims, the help that arrived thousands of kilometres from home, and the moment they finally stepped onto Bengaluru soil, made the emotional homecoming even more meaningful.

> The NGO reached out after the report by **TOI** (Bengaluru). They helped with accommodation, finances, and even arranged a ritual that is usually pre-booked months in advance to ensure our mental peace. The airlines raised ticket prices dramatically, and we paid Rs 16,000 extra to secure seats. The minute I landed, I touched the ground and felt it. I'm very happy with my the state and country
>
> **Mohammed Inayath** | 32, CONTENT CREATOR

> Nobody was there to support us. We didn't know what would happen next. Some people even said it could take a month for flights and we would be stuck there. There was nothing certain — when our flights would be booked or how we would manage. The silence was the most frightening thing. Every day was traumatic. I was scared till the last minute of the flight landing in Bengaluru
>
> **Mohammed Hidayathullah** | 40, PRINCIPAL OF PRIVATE COLLEGE

EMOTIONAL REUNION: Over 50 Umrah pilgrims from Bengaluru, stranded in Medina because of flight disruptions, returned home Monday morning

YOU READ IT IN TOI

Savings run out for 50 pilgrims

Mar 2, 2026

> I ran out of medicines. My son was panicking and in search of help for food and medicines. I felt bad seeing them all struggling. On March 6, one of the group members suffered a panic attack and was rushed to a health centre; fortunately, it was resolved quickly. Thanks to help from unexpected quarters, we are home
>
> **Tajsalma** | 65, RT NAGAR RESIDENT

Pay up or face music: GBA to 1k defaulters

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

₹33.9-CRORE DUES

Bengaluru: The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has issued a final warning to property owners who have defaulted on paying property tax, with dues amounting to Rs 33.9 crore pending from 1,010 owners across the five city corporations.

Special commissioner (revenue) Munish Moudgil said of the total pending amount, Rs 14.3 crore was due from 510 major defaulters, while Rs 19.6 crore was pending in 500 property tax reassessment cases. "The respective zonal joint commissioners were instructed to expedite recovery of dues from large defaulters and reassessment cases. The list of the top 50 defaulters and reassessment cases in each municipal corporation was uploaded on the GBA website. Property owners with pending dues are to immediately clear their taxes to avoid legal action," he said.

Meanwhile, the authority has also intensified property auctions to recover long-pending dues. At KR Pura in Bengaluru East city corporation limits, two out of six identified properties have already been auctioned. Officials said strict action is being taken in cases where property tax has not been paid for more than a year, including auctioning of the property to recover dues. Under the Greater Bengaluru Administration Act-2025, it is mandatory for all property owners or occupiers within municipal limits to pay property tax annually.

The authorities said show-cause notices and demand notices were issued earlier to the defaulters, and sufficient time was given to clear the dues. Property owners were also repeatedly reminded through phone messages. Despite multiple opportunities, six properties in KR Pura zone were taken up for auction as per the provisions of the Property Tax Assessment, Collection and Management Rules, 2024.

During the auction process, four property owners cleared their dues on the spot, following which their properties were removed from the auction list; the remaining two properties were auctioned and purchased through bidding.

19 Gulf flights cancelled at KIA

Bengaluru: Flight operations at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) continued to be disrupted Monday, affecting services to key West Asian destinations. Airport authorities confirmed that a total of 19 flights were cancelled during the day (nine arrivals and 10 departures).

The cancellations impacted major sectors such as Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam, Dubai, and Doha, causing inconvenience to passengers travelling between Bengaluru and the Gulf region. Officials said the disruptions were linked to airspace limitations affecting flight routes. Airlines are assisting affected passengers with rescheduling and alternative travel arrangements, while airport authorities are monitoring the situation closely. TNN

RTI violations: 2 BDA officials penalised ₹1.2L

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Cracking the whip over violations of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, Karnataka Information Commission (KIC) has imposed hefty penalties on two senior officials of Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) for failing to furnish information sought by citizens, underscoring the importance of transparency and accountability in public offices. Umesh, deputy secretary at BDA, has been fined Rs 1 lakh in four separate cases for neglecting to respond to RTI applications, while secretary CL Shivakumar has been fined Rs 25,000.

KIC, while hearing multiple appeals, found that the officials failed to comply with provisions of the RTI Act despite repeated opportunities. The Act allows the commission to penalise those who deliberately deny or delay information. All public authorities are required to proactively disclose key information about their functioning under Section 4 of the law and regularly update it on their official websites. The Supreme Court has also emphasised strict implementation of Section 4(1)(a) and Section 4(1)(b), directing govt departments to ensure transparency by periodically publishing such information. However, the commission noted that even two decades after the RTI Act came into force, several public authorities continue to ignore these mandatory provisions.

In the case involving Umesh, four applicants — Takshak, Tanvita Gaur, Ashwija P, and Balachandra Rao — had sought information under Section 4 of the RTI Act. When their requests went unanswered, they appealed to KIC. Despite a show-cause notice issued by the commission, Umesh allegedly failed to provide the information. Taking serious note of the lapse, the commission imposed a penalty of Rs 25,000 in each of the four cases, taking the total to Rs 1 lakh.

In the final case, RTI applicant Suresh Chandra Babu had sought from Shivakumar a copy of the govt order related to the jurisdiction of additional land acquisition officers. When the request was ignored, the applicant approached KIC. After an inquiry, the commission fined Shivakumar Rs 25,000 and warned that disciplinary action could be recommended if the requested documents are not furnished immediately.

Swachh drive gets B'luru brand ambassadors

Bengaluru: The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) is gearing up to improve its performance in this year's Swachh Survekshan by taking several steps. Last year, Bengaluru stood 36th out of 40 cities with a population more than 1 million.

On Monday, GBA and Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML) inducted six brand ambassadors ahead of the assessment, conducted annually by the Union ministry of housing and urban affairs. Padma Shri awardee and transgender folk artist Manjamma Jogati, Kannada actor Aniruddha Jatkar, social worker and KPCC leader KM Nagaraj are among the brand ambassadors, along with NGO leaders Arun Pai, Abhilash Nair, and Aniruddh Dutt. The ambassadors were felicitated at Town Hall in the presence of GBA chief commissioner Maheshwar Rao and others. TNN

Debt-ridden man dies by suicide

Bengaluru: A 50-year-old businessman died after jumping in front of a running train near Nagashettihalli railway crossing in Hebbal Sunday evening.

The deceased has been identified as V Venkatesh from Srirampura. According to his family, Venkatesh had incurred losses in the share market business and was in heavy debt. He was also upset over some health issues, and doctors had removed his toes following gangrene, his family said.

"The loco pilot of Yeshwantpur–Salem passenger train saw Venkatesh suddenly emerge from the side and jump in front of the locomotive. The train was brought to an abrupt halt, but Venkatesh died. He was identified with the help of documents recovered from a small handbag he was carrying," a railway police source said. TNN

(If you are having suicidal thoughts or are in need of emotional support, call suicide prevention helplines: Tele-Manas helpline: 14416 or 1800-891-4416, SAHAI Helpline: 080-25497777)

ALMANAC (10.3.2026)

Kumbha Masa 26 Shri Vishvavasu Nama Samvatsara – Uttarayana – Shishira Ritu - Tithi: Phalguna Krishna Saptami h. 25-55 Nakshatra: Anuradha h. 19-05 Yoga: Harshana h. 8-21. 20 Ramadan

Rahu Kalam 3pm—4.30pm

— KL Vidya Shankara Somayaji

I-T officer falls for astrologer's parroted promise, loses ₹31L jewellery

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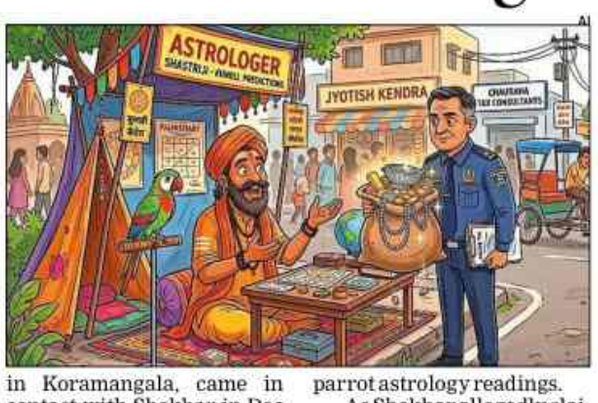

The astrologer convinced the I-T officer that a powerful ritual with his gold and silver articles would pave the way for his career growth. Once he got the valuables, the astrologer avoided victim and finally vanished

Bengaluru: What started as a casual curiosity on a roadside stall soon turned into a financial nightmare for an income (I-T) tax officer. Lured by promises of prosperity and personal growth, he entrusted his valuables to a self-styled astrologer—only to be cheated of gold, silver, and cash worth over Rs 31 lakh.

According to a complaint lodged with Bharathinagar police, Ramesh (name changed), an administrative officer of the I-T department posted in Koramangala, came in contact with Shekhar in Dec 2025 when the latter was sitting by the roadside offering parrot astrology readings.

As Shekhar allegedly claimed he could predict a person's future by just looking at his face, Ramesh asked him to read his horoscope. During the interaction, Shekhar allegedly told him that he was going through a difficult phase in life and advised him to perform a special ritual that would cost Rs 50,000. Ramesh returned a week later and handed over the money. Shekhar then assured him that the ritual would be performed and promised to call him once it was completed.

A few days later, the astrologer told Ramesh that the ritual had been performed. However, he soon claimed that a "more powerful ritual" was necessary for the I-T officer's career growth, promotions and overall prosperity. Ramesh initially rejected the suggestion. Later, when Ramesh approached the astrologer seeking clarity about his pending transfer proposal at work, Shekhar once again insisted that a larger ritual was required. He asked Ramesh to bring all the gold and silver ornaments from his house, assuring him they would be returned after the ritual.

Ramesh eventually agreed. On Feb 20, when his family members were away, he collected gold ornaments weighing about 194 grams, including a necklace, earrings and a bracelet, along with silver ornaments weighing around 1.3 kg, and handed them over to Shekhar. The astrologer told him to return the next day to collect them. However, Shekhar allegedly kept delaying the return of the valuables, claiming the ritual was still underway. When Ramesh insisted on getting the ornaments back, the accused stopped responding to his calls and allegedly threatened him and his family with dire consequences.

Police said efforts are underway to arrest the accused who is now on the run.

Two youths test-ride bike, die in collision with tractor

Bengaluru: Two youths lost their lives after the sports motorbike they were testing crashed into a slow-moving tractor near Gudemaranahalli handpost in Kunigal on the Bengaluru–Mangaluru state highway Sunday night.

The deceased are Chandan Gowda G and Mahesh O, aged 22 years and residents of Nandini Layout, north Bengaluru.

The two were shifted to Kunigal Hospital by midnight, where they were declared brought dead, police said. According to their families, Chandan Gowda recently purchased the sports motorbike and wanted to go for a long ride to get the engine fine-tuned. On Sunday night, the youths left their houses after informing their families of their purpose. On reaching Gudemaranahalli handpost, Chandan Gowda failed to notice the tractor moving ahead and rammed into it. "Though they wore helmets, they sustained severe injuries to their ribs, neck and hands, causing severe internal bleeding," police said, adding: "There was no trace of alcohol in their blood," police said. TNN

Realtor kidnapped & killed, cops suspect ex-associate

Body Found Dumped in Tamil Nadu

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A realtor from Anekal in Bengaluru Rural district was allegedly kidnapped Sunday evening and later murdered, with his body found dumped near Denkanikottai in Tamil Nadu Monday morning.

The victim, identified as Gopal, was travelling in his car with his friend Satish when a gang of car-borne miscreants intercepted them near Karpur on the Karnataka–Tamil Nadu border between 6.30pm and 7pm. According to police, the assailants rammed their vehicle into Gopal's car, forcing it to stop.

The gang then allegedly sprayed a chemical on Satish. As he struggled to see and ran for cover, the attackers dragged Gopal out of the car, bundled him into their vehicle and sped away.

Satish alerted police, prompting a search operation. Officers were informed that the kidnappers had driven towards Tamil Nadu through the Denkanikottai route.

Seven special teams were formed to trace the victim and track down the offenders. Police initially suspected that the kidnappers might have moved towards Shivamogga or Mangaluru, and two teams were sent to those regions while others combed areas on the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border. Monday morning, Denkanikottai police informed their Anekal counterparts about a body found by the roadside in their jurisdiction. The description matched that of the missing realtor, and officers later confirmed the identity.

Police suspect the kidnappers transported him in a car and later murdered him using sharp weapons. Investigators suspect the involvement of Gopal's former associate, Mohan Babu. According to police sources, the two had previously worked together but fell out several years ago following financial disputes.

Sources said Mohan allegedly harboured resentment after Gopal started his own real estate business and began earning significantly more.

Gopal's wife, Swati, alleged that Mohan had assaulted her husband in the past. "Two years ago, Mohan Babu took my husband to his farmhouse and assaulted him. They are relatives and used to work together earlier. Their business dispute led to this incident. I suspect Mohan is behind the kidnapping," she said.

Efforts are on to trace Mohan and other suspects.

The gang rammed Gopal's car and sprayed a chemical on his friend Satish. As he struggled to see, the attackers dragged Gopal out of the car, bundled him into their vehicle and sped away

Four men trapped in lift rescued

Bengaluru: Hoysala police rescued four men from a lift stuck on the third floor of an apartment at Babusabpalya, Hennur, in the early hours of Monday.

According to police, the men were coming down from the fourth floor and got stuck on reaching the third floor. Immediately, one of the men called the police control room on 112, and assistant sub inspector Rayappa Kombin and assistant police constable Yallappa reached the spot in 12 minutes. "Other occupants of the apartment came out and, with their help, we managed to open the metal doors of the lift and pulled the men out," they said.

Homemaker ends life over dowry harassment

A 28-year-old homemaker was found hanging at her residence in Agara, in the Hennur area, in the early hours of Monday.

The deceased is K Suprita. Based on a complaint filed by her parents, police have registered a dowry death case against her husband, Kiran Kumar, and his parents, Nagaraju and Gopamma.

Suprita is survived by her one-and-a-half-year-old son.

In her complaint with police, Suprita's mother alleged that Kumar, a realtor, had been harassing her daughter and pressuring her to bring additional dowry. TNN

B'luru retiree falls for 5G upgrade trap, loses ₹8 lakh

Chaithanya.Swamy
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Cybercriminals appear to be constantly reinventing their bag of tricks to target unsuspecting citizens. After scams involving KYC updates, credit card upgrades, and fake loan offers, fraudsters have now begun exploiting the buzz around 5G services.

Recently, a man posing as a telecom company representative duped an elderly person of over Rs 8.2 lakh. The victim was David (name changed), a retiree and resident of Kalyan Nagar. His ordeal began on Feb 27, when he received a call from one Kaiful, who identified himself as a telecom company executive.

He told David that his mobile connection was still using 4G and needed to be upgraded to 5G. He sounded professional and convinced David that the upgrade was necessary to ensure uninterrupted network services. Under the pretext of completing the upgrade, the fraudster persuaded the victim to follow a few instructions on his phone. The scammer managed to block his SMS and email alerts, preventing him from receiving transaction notifications from the bank. He carried out multiple unauthorised transactions using two of David's credit cards. The fraudster informed him that the network would remain blocked until the night of Feb 28.

HOW TO GUARD AGAINST FRAUD

- Telecom companies do not ask customers to upgrade to 5G through phone calls or links
- Never share OTP, card details, CVV, or passwords over phone
- Avoid following instructions from callers claiming to be customer care executives
- Disconnect such calls immediately and verify through the official customer care number
- Report fraud immediately to the cybercrime helpline 1930

#DontGetScammed

Gift TOI to your loved ones and protect them from scams. Call 85 95 124 124

Caution from bank

On Feb 28, David received a call from one of the banks where he held a credit card, cautioning him about suspicious financial activity. He requested the bank officials to block his credit card, explaining that his phone had been hacked. He also contacted another bank and blocked his bank account and second credit card.

Later, around 3pm, he visited a nearby telecom store and informed the staff about the call regarding 5G upgrade. The staff clarified that telecom companies do not make such calls for network upgrades. He then replaced his sim card.

The stolen money was cleverly routed through digital platforms on the morning of Feb 28. A portion of the amount was converted into gift vouchers on a major e-commerce platform, while the remaining funds were transferred to a digital payment wallet, making it difficult to immediately trace the transactions.

David lodged a complaint with the cybercrime helpline (1930) before approaching east cybercrime police on March 5. A case has been registered under the Information Technology Act and Section 318 (cheating) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

A senior officer said the case highlights how fraudsters are adopting newer and more sophisticated techniques, including blocking communication alerts and diverting funds through digital wallets and online vouchers to hide their tracks.

No bail for 'godman' in Pocso case

A local court denied bail to self-styled godman Mallikarjun Muthya in Yadgir Monday. Judge Marulasiddaradhya of district principal and special Pocso court, who heard his bail application, rejected the plea.

Muthya, who faces charges under the Pocso Act for misbehaving with minor girls, is absconding and has filed an anticipatory bail application to avoid arrest. After a case was registered at Gogi police station, he moved Kalaburagi bench of the high court, later withdrew the plea and filed another application before Yadgir district court. TNN

Hoax bomb threat puts KIA on high alert

Bengaluru: A bomb threat call to Kempegowda International Airport late Saturday night sparked panic among airport staff and prompted an immediate security check, before authorities later confirmed it was a hoax.

According to airport officials, the incident occurred around 12:06 am when the Engagement Centre, the customer assistance wing at Terminal–1, received a call on its landline. A female staff member answered the call from a mobile number, with the caller claiming to be a police officer. During the conversation, he allegedly boasted that he could "buy 10 airports like yours" and threatened to plant a bomb at the airport.

Investigators said the caller repeated the threat twice, raising concerns for passenger safety. Security agencies were immediately alerted, and a Bomb Threat Assessment Committee (BTAC) was formed to evaluate the situation. TNN

Distributors cite instruction to prioritise domestic consumers

▶ Continued from page 1

According to hoteliers, distributors cited 'instructions' from the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to prioritise LPG supply to domestic consumers.

However, establishments connected to piped gas networks have not been affected so far. According to the association, about 10 to 15 per cent of city hotels and restaurants get piped gas from GAIL (India) Limited and continue to receive uninterrupted supply.

Industry representatives said they understand that international developments could affect supply chains but expressed concern over the sudden disruption.

Subramanya Holla, the president of the association, said: "We will be fine if the supply is reduced, as we understand the situation, but the govt can't leave us with a full cut-down."

Industry members pointed out that the crisis comes amid a sharp rise in LPG prices.

According to the hotels' association, Bengaluru has nearly 40,000 small, medium and large-scale hotels and restaurants, while Karnataka has around 1 lakh such establishments. This sudden shortage in LPG supply has left restaurant owners stumped, after the Centre had earlier assured that commercial LPG supplies would not be halted.

Though the Central govt has said there will be no stopping of commercial LPG supply, the local distributors say they are not receiving any refilled cylinders from govt agencies. So, in Bengaluru, the majority of hoteliers have not received LPG cylinder supply today

ARUN ADIGA
Vidyarthi Bhavan

Veerandra Kamath of Kamath Food Chain and secretary of the Bangalore Hotels Association said the industry had already raised its concerns with the authorities and even submitted a memorandum to the Union petroleum minister. "But his assurances seem to be short-lived," he said.

Smaller darshinis — an integral part of Bengaluru's food culture — are particularly vulnerable. Most operate in compact spaces and maintain minimal LPG stocks due to storage limitations. Such eateries consume three to four 19-kg cylinders daily and keep reserves sufficient for only one or two days.

Most vacant seats are in management quota where fees are high: RGUHS V-C

▶ Continued from page 1

Pre- and para-clinical seats had only a handful of takers. Only eight students took up anatomy seats, of the total 119 seats available. Twenty students opted for physiology, 21 for biochemistry, and 70 for pharmacology. Students showed better interest in pathology, with 226 students opting for it.

Compare this with previous year's admissions. In 2024-25, there were 3,806 medical PG seats available through KEA counselling. Of these, 3,378 were allotted, leaving 428 seats vacant. It's a 10% vacancy. All the vacant seats that year were in pre- and para-clinical programmes. The trend was the same in 2023 too, when 478 seats were vacant — all from pre and para clinical.

There was an increase of 967 seats in a single year this time. "The mindset of students applying for MBBS and MD is different. In MBBS, at whichever stage seats are added, they get filled up. Not with PG. From what we observed, the seats added in the middle of counselling do not find many takers. PG students charted out their career paths," said SNVL Narasimha Raju, chairman, The Oxford Educational Institutions.

"Counselling takes a very long time amid court cases and other delays. There is very little gap between one counselling and the next year's exam. So students decide to prepare better for the next year's exam, rather than pay for the high-fee category seat this year. Thus, the NRI/management seats are left vacant in many institutions," he added.

"This time, there was an increase in the number of seats. Most vacant seats are in the management quota. These fees are so high that it is out of reach for many students. It is sad that seats are going vacant even when there are hundreds of students repeating the exam, vying for those seats. One way to do it is to subsidise the management seats and make it more affordable for the students," said Bhagavan BC, vice-chancellor of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences.

"All the rounds of counselling are over, unless the National Medical Commission permits more," said Islavuddeen Gadyal, administrative officer, KEA.

2024-25 status

Subject	Vacant seats
Anatomy	98
Physiology	87
Biochemistry	87
Pharmacology	62
Microbiology	68
Community Medicine	19
Forensic Medicine	48
Diploma in Public Health	2
Total	**471**

2025-26 PG medical

Course	Intake	Vacant seats
Anatomy	119	111
Physiology	117	97
Biochemistry	113	92
Pharmacology	123	53
Pathology	265	39
Microbiology	130	99
Community Medicine	143	63
Forensic Medicine	77	47
Dermatology	196	15
Paediatrics	362	25
General Medicine	500	37
Radio Diagnosis	287	35
Respiratory Medicine	87	4
Emergency Medicine	74	1
Orthopaedics	358	28
Anaesthesia	443	3
General Surgery	425	11
Obstetrics and Gynaecology	362	18
Diploma in Clinical Pathology	2	2
Diploma in Public Health	3	3
Total	**4,186**	**783**

CM's training on budget turns into defence of state finances

Pearl.DSouza@timesofindia.com

TOI

BACKING HIMSELF: Chief minister Siddaramaiah speaks during the budget session in the legislative assembly on Monday

Bengaluru: CM Siddaramaiah took on the role of a teacher at a workshop Monday to explain nuances of state budgets to legislators, but the session largely turned into a defence of his record 17th state budget presented last week, with the CM highlighting the state's fiscal management while accusing the Centre of not releasing funds.

As expected, opposition MLAs — barring two BJP rebels — skipped the event, while about 80% of governing Congress legislators attended. Several legislators raised questions related to the recent budget rather than its technical aspects.

Siddaramaiah defended Karnataka's fiscal management and said the state had been forced to present a deficit budget because funds due from the central govt did not arrive. He admitted that while the size of the 2026-27 state budget rose to Rs 4.48 lakh crore, the govt could not fully implement last year's proposed expenditure. "We were forced to present a deficit because funds from the Centre did not arrive," he said.

He said the introduction of the GST had slowed growth of state tax revenues. "Before GST, our tax revenue grew by 10% every year. After GST, it dropped to 4%," he said.

Referring to Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act norms, he said finances were considered sound if a state maintained a revenue surplus, kept fiscal deficit within 3% and limited debt to 25% of GSDP. He said Karnataka's GSDP is about Rs 33.5 lakh crore.

Brushes off rising debt

Responding to criticism on rising debt, Siddaramaiah said: "These days, the opposition often alleges that Siddaramaiah has taken excessive loans and that the state is running on debt... But I have always strived to maintain financial discipline."

He said Karnataka had a revenue surplus until 2018 but faced a deficit after GST compensation from the Centre ended in 2022. "For 2025-26, the revenue deficit was around Rs 19,000 crore, and for next year it is expected to be around Rs 22,000 crore. If funds due from the Centre were released, this deficit could have been eliminated."

Citing the Jal Jeevan Mission, he said the estimated cost of the scheme was Rs 69,000 crore with a 50:50 funding. "So far, the Centre has paid only Rs 11,000 crore, while we have already spent more than Rs 27,000 crore. Essentially, we have borne the Centre's share," he said.

He went on to say: "Karnataka contributes over Rs 4.5 lakh crore in taxes to the Centre every year but the share the state gets from the central pool is only Rs 73,000 crore. This means that for every Re 1 we contribute, only about 15 paise comes back to the state. This is not a political statement; many states face similar injustice. It is our responsibility to point it out."

HM: Will decide on SC internal quota this week

Bengaluru: Home minister **G Parameshwara** said the govt will take a decision on internal reservation among Scheduled Castes at the next cabinet meeting — likely this week — indicating that a broad consensus had emerged and only technical aspects remained to be worked out.

He dismissed speculation about divisions within governing Congress on the issue. "Not two, not three — there are no factions at all," Parameshwara said Monday. "Just because someone expresses an opinion it does not mean it is factionalism."

He said discussions are on to work out proportional distribution of reservation after the overall quota was reduced from 56% to 50% following court directions.

He said that after the Justice Nagamohan Das report was submitted, the govt had retained the 56% base and created three categories of internal reservation — 6% each for Left and Right sects and 5% for 'touchables' and others. He said this matrix had not faced opposition then.

He pointed out that the court later ruled that reservation cannot exceed 50%, in line with the ceiling fixed in the Indra Sawhney case. "Based on that order, the matrix drawn up earlier needs to be recalculated proportionately after bringing total reservation down to 50%."

He said the govt is working to prevent confusion in the roster system or in promotions once the revised formula was implemented. He added that the issue involved several communities, including Bhovis, Lambanis, Korachas, Koramas besides nomadic groups, and discussions were held on providing a separate reservation for nomadic communities. "We will take all these aspects into account before arriving at a decision," he said.

On reports that the issue could affect govt recruitment, Parameshwara said it was only a technicality and the govt has already decided to fill more than 56,000 posts.

"When we issue a notification, we must clearly specify reservation categories," he said. "We cannot announce reservation after a notification. For example, if we announce 10,000 posts, we must say how many posts go to which category. We are working out these details."

Parameshwara also accused opposition BJP and its ally JD(S) of trying to derive political advantage from the issue. Earlier, the home minister, a Right sect of Dalit, visited Left sect minister KH Muniyappa's residence to wish him on his birthday. The two also discussed the internal reservation issue. TNN

SHORT TAKES

No ban on reporters at Soudha: Govt

The govt clarified that it has not imposed any restrictions on media personnel at Vidhana Soudha. It also defended its earlier order, which asked reporters to speak with legislators and officials only at the West Gate. In response to a letter from opposition leader R Ashoka, KG Jagadeesha, secretary, department of personnel and administrative reforms (DPAR), said, "For those who have accreditation cards issued by govt, there are no restrictions on covering any event, workshop, press conference or meeting at Vidhana Soudha. Media persons are already covering such events and there is no need to issue a separate order in this regard." In his letter dated Feb 23, Ashoka had urged the govt to restore free access for reporters at Vidhana Soudha.

Yatnal rules out return to BJP

Expelled BJP legislator Basanagouda Patil Yatnal ruled out rejoining BJP while the "corrupt family" leads the party in Karnataka. The Vijayapura MLA dismissed speculation that his visit to the national capital was to lobby for a return to BJP. "I am not the kind of person who goes to someone's house pleading to be taken into BJP or begging favours," he said, adding that his trip was for personal reasons. Targeting the family of former chief minister BS Yediyurappa and his son BY Vijayendra, Yatnal said, "As long as that corrupt family remains at the helm, the question of rejoining BJP does not arise." He also said his proposed JCB Party would win and he would become chief minister.

Cheers for India's T20 WC triumph

The assembly congratulated India's cricket team for winning the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, saying the victory brought pride and glory to the country. Soon after the obituary references, speaker UT Khader read out a congratulatory message on behalf of the House. He called the win "a most happy occasion". Members across party lines endorsed the message, thumping desks in approval and appreciation of the team's achievement.

Agri innovation hub in Kalaburagi

The govt signed a memorandum of agreement with Krishi Kalpa Foundation to establish a centre of excellence in agriculture in Kalaburagi. The agreement was signed by the department of electronics, IT, biotechnology and science & technology through Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society under LEAP, a Rs 1,000 crore initiative to promote innovation beyond Bengaluru. IT minister Priyank Kharge said the centre will support farmers, startups, researchers and innovators in developing agri-tech solutions and strengthening livelihoods across Kalyana Karnataka region.

CM wishes mountaineers

Members of Karnataka Mountaineering Association, Santosh Devarajappa and Prof Dr Chinmayi Trishulamurthy, who are set to attempt scaling Mount Everest in April-May, met CM Siddaramaiah Monday. The CM handed over the national tricolour, the Karnataka state emblem and the Kannada flag to the team as a gesture of encouragement and wished them success.

400 veterinarians to be recruited

The govt has initiated the process to recruit 400 veterinary officers in the animal husbandry department, minister K Venkatesh told the legislative assembly. Replying to a question from 'Cement' Manju, Venkatesh said the posts will be filled through direct recruitment by Karnataka Public Service Commission. Replying to a question, he said the govt was aware of the shortage of veterinary doctors and staff in the Sakleshpur assembly constituency. A proposal has also been sent to the finance department to appoint 400 veterinary officers and 300 veterinary inspectors on a contract basis, which is currently under examination.

Sites for ex-servicemen soon

Revenue minister Krishna Byre Gowda told the assembly that the govt will develop layouts and allot sites to eligible ex-servicemen by the end of the year. Replying to a question from Harihar MLA BP Harish, Byre Gowda said 338 ex-servicemen in Davanagere district had applied for sites, but there is a land crunch. He said the govt has digitised all applications. "Earlier, there was no proper system or accurate recordds. Now information is available at our fingertips," Byre Gowda said.

96% promoted to IAS skipped training course

Bengaluru: Congress legislators came down hard on state bureaucrats who refused to attend a mandatory administrative training course at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) in Mussoorie after they were promoted to IAS cadre.

Raising the issue in the council, Congress' Ramesh Babu said some 96% of officers promoted to IAS since 2016 have skipped the mandatory 45-day course.

Seeking the intervention of CM Siddaramaiah, Babu said of 26 officials, only one attended the programme. Babu urged the CM to ensure all promoted officers mandatorily attend the LBSNAA programme. TNN

All-round preparation

Located in the hill town of Mussoorie, LBSNAA is the premier training institute for civil servants. Officers who clear UPSC exams begin their formal journey as civil servants at the academy. The course is designed to build coordination among different services and familiarise officers with public administration, law, economics, and Indian history. The programme focuses on discipline and teamwork, while preparing officers for administrative responsibilities anywhere in the country.

Min defends move to buy transformers from Kerala

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

TOI

YOU DID IT TOO: KJ George, energy minister, responds to the opposition

Bengaluru: The govt's decision to buy transformers from a Kerala-based company triggered an uproar in the council Monday, with opposition members questioning the move to award business to firms outside Karnataka.

Raising the issue, BJP's Ravi Kumar asked why the govt could not source transformers from manufacturers in the state . In response, energy minister KJ George said procurement was based on a tender, and the Kerala-based firm offered the lowest price.

"We (Congress) are not the only ones to procure transformers like this; the previous BJP govt did as well," George said, adding Karnataka's transformer requirement currently exceeds the supply capacity of local manufacturers.

"State-owned Karnataka Vidyuth Karkhane Ltd was manufacturing only 15,000 transformers which has now been scaled up to 30,000. However, the state's requirement is about 50,000 transformers," he said. "So we had to buy from outside." He said any procurement under the 4G tender exemption rule would be made only after approval from the finance department.

KSIC stadium plan scrapped

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

TOI

KEPT IN THE DARK: K Venkatesh, sericulture minister, said the govt was unaware of all the facts pertaining to the land

Bengaluru: The govt has decided to drop the proposal to construct a stadium on five acres of land belonging to Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation (KSIC) at T Narasipura in Mysuru district, sericulture minister K Venkatesh told the legislative assembly Monday.

The proposal had triggered protests from workers and locals. KSIC oversees production of the famed Mysore silk saris and other silk products.

Venkatesh said the land falls under chief minister Siddaramaiah's constituency and that the proposal came from "misguided officials". "Officials told us land was available for a stadium. The CM has only now been made aware of the facts, so we are dropping the proposal," he said.

Opposition leader R Ashoka had earlier alleged the govt was attempting to close down KSIC. He said the corporation was established by Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar and questioned the need to use the land for a stadium when the unit was profitable.

Urban development minister BS Suresha also urged the govt to protect KSIC, pointing to the global demand for its silk products and the two-month waiting period for silk saris.

Welcoming the govt's decision, Ashoka later said the move was a victory for workers and supporters of KSIC, which he described as a symbol of Karnataka's heritage.

During the discussion, Venkatesh revealed KSIC workers receive Rs 3,000 during training and about Rs 15,000 after appointment. Opposition members sought higher pay for employees. Mysore Silk received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2005-06.

Full turnout likely today for Shivakumar's dinner meet

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Almost all Congress legislators are expected to attend a dinner hosted by deputy CM DK Shivakumar on Tuesday, with party brass suggesting the gathering will be a show of unity during the ongoing budget session of the legislature.

The dinner is to celebrate Shivakumar completing six years as Congress state president. Invitations have been extended to all ministers, party MLAs and MLCs, including chief minister Siddaramaiah.

"There is no factionalism and all legislators are expected to attend since the KPCC president has personally invited us," said a legislator.

In Delhi, Shivakumar said the dinner is meant to bring party legislators together and will be followed by similar meetings with other party members. "A date will be fixed for a dinner for candidates who lost (in 2023 and 2024 state and Lok Sabha elections) and district presidents of the party," he said.

PTI

PREPARING FOR POLLS: DK Shivakumar with Gaurav Gogoi, Assam Pradesh Congress Committee president, in New Delhi on Monday

Shivakumar's visit to Delhi has triggered speculation on possible discussions with Congress' high command, but he declined to reveal details. "If I do not meet them, you (reporters) will say the high command refused to meet me. So, I won't disclose anything," he said.

Sources say Shivakumar travelled to Delhi with party national president Mallikarjun Kharge from Kalaburagi on Sunday. They were both at an event to launch projects worth Rs 1,069 crore at Chittapur. At Karnataka Bhavan in Delhi, Shivakumar said he would meet senior party brass during his visit. He said his visit to the national capital followed a personal engagement in Pune.

"There was a wedding at my friend's house in Pune. That is why I came to Delhi yesterday (Sunday)," he said.

Only 1k Mysuru silk saris unsold in last 3 yrs: Min

▶ Continued from page 1

The corporation has been producing saris since 1912. It currently produces 300-400 saris a day. Its collective output for the past three years stood at 3.1 lakh saris, with just 1,000 remaining unsold in the period. The minister said online sales would resume once production stabilises. He attributed the spike in demand to the high quality of saris. KSIC sources premium cocoons mostly from govt markets in Sidlaghatta, Ramanagara, and Kollegal within Karnataka.

"There is a huge competition in procuring the high quality cocoons from Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and other states. However, we are making efforts to procure quality cocoons," Venkatesh said.

Replying to a question from BJP MLA TS Srivatsa, Venkatesh said the popularity of saris was evident during special discount sales. "Since saris with defects remain unsold, we offer 25% to 50% discounts. During these special sales, we notice people queuing up from 3am," he said.

Urban development minister BS Suresh, opposition leader R Ashoka and other members urged Venkatesh to secure adequate funds to expand KSIC operations and increase sari production. Suresh suggested that KSIC could consider increasing sari prices and improving employee salaries to help sustain the legacy of Mysuru silk. The minister said KSIC's financial performance had improved significantly in recent years. The corporation recorded a profit of Rs 101 crore in 2024-25 by selling more than 1 lakh saris. It had reported a profit of Rs 73 crore in 2023-24 and Rs 46 crore in 2022-23.

To meet growing demand, the govt has installed 10 e-jacquard looms (advanced weaving technology) at the integrated weaving unit-2 and 20 such machines at the weaving unit in Channapatna, raising production by 7,500 metres a month.

CONSISTENT DEMAND

Year	Saris sold	Net profit*
2022-23	98,277	46.7
2023-24	1,08,035	73.4
2024-25	1,03,347	101.1

Source: KSIC | * In Rs crore

Bullet train could be game changer for Bengaluru, say Japan officials

Bengaluru: With high-speed rail projects planned to connect Bengaluru with Chennai and Hyderabad, Japanese officials said the initiative could transform not just travel, but also business and economic activity.

Watanabe Ikko, director for India, trade policy bureau of Japan's ministry of economy, trade and industry (METI), compared it to the Tokyo-Nagoya bullet train. "Travel time dropped from seven hours to one and a half, boosting business transactions. Companies like Toyota could access Tokyo markets easily — similarly, Bengaluru-based businesses will benefit," he said at the Japan-India Mobility Summit 2026.

Japan has already supported Bengaluru through JICA loans for Namma Metro Phase 2. Takayama Naritoshi, deputy director-general for Trade, METI, stressed transit-oriented development (TOD) and multimodal connectivity. S Selvakumar, principal secretary for Karnataka's commerce and industries department, highlighted the state's potential for mobility innovation, citing over 800 R&D centres, global capability hubs, and policies like the Clean Mobility Policy 2025-30. TNN

CCTV footage helps cops identify accused student

▶ Continued from page 1

The suspect and the other students were all from class 9.

Police said CCTV footage provided crucial leads that helped them track down the suspect. Cops are still trying to figure out the trigger for such a violent attack.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has registered a suo motu case in connection with the crime. The commission has asked the district administration to furnish details of action taken and relief measures provided to the injured students. In addition, the state education department will conduct a separate probe into the incident.

LEDs replace streetlights in north B'luru

Bengaluru: The Bengaluru North city corporation has launched a project to replace conventional streetlights with energy-efficient LED lights across all wards under the GBA, aiming to reduce electricity consumption and improve public lighting. The electrical division is currently implementing the project across all wards. TNN

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IN LOVING MEMORY

C. R. Venuprakash Reddy
5th April 1957 – 10th March 2025
1st Death Anniversary
The foundation he built continues to hold us steady.
Swarnalatha Reddy
Brijesh Reddy
Jayeesh Reddy
Brothers, Sisters & Friends
Bangalore/Vijayawada

40TH DAY REMEMBRANCE

RAJESHWARI K
(1963-2026)
Forty days have passed since our beloved mother entered eternal rest. Though we miss her deeply, we find hope in Christ and His promise of everlasting life.
May God grant her eternal peace and comfort our family.
Fondly remembered by Family and Friends
Nandini K & Sudeep T (Beloved Friend), Saranya K & Mahima, Late Kanniappan S

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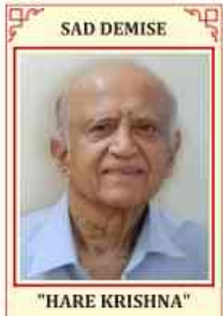
32nd Birthday Remembrance
CHIKKAGOWDARA N R GURUMURTHY REDDY
10.03.1994 to 19.06.2012
In our memories you live forever - We miss you APPU.
Chikka Gowdara N R Raveendra & Family.

SAD DEMISE



"HARE KRISHNA"
OUR DEAREST BELOVED
S VISWANATH KUMAR
LEFT FOR HIS HEAVENLY ABODE ON 06.03.2026.
He will always be remembered as a humble, devoted, and selfless soul who touched many lives with his kindness and compassion.
DEEPLY MOURNED BY
Meera Kumar (Wife), Vasundhara (Sister-in-law), Anita (Daughter), Sunitha (Daughter), Sunil (Son) and their families.
Condolence on chaitanya.svkumar@gmail.com

8TH YEAR REMEMBRANCE

Sri J. SAMPATH NAIK
10-03-2018
Fondly Remembered by
Wife, Children, Grand Children
Relatives & Friends

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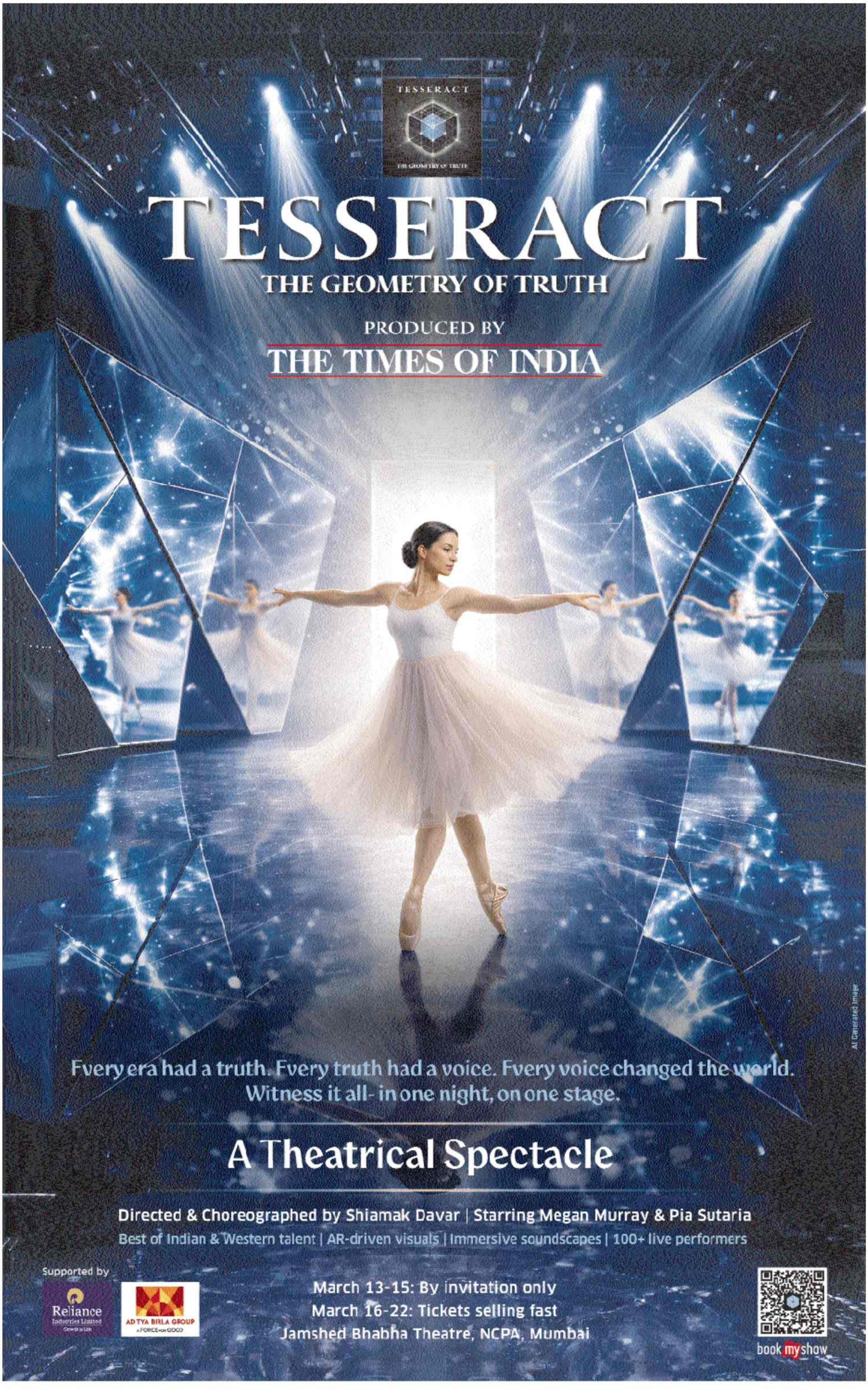
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A FORCE FOR GOOD
March 13-15: By invitation only
March 16-22: Tickets selling fast
Jamshed Bhabha Theatre, NCPA, Mumbai
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TIMES NATION

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026

'RAHUL BANDHU' SCHEME BEING RUN WITH T'GANA FARMERS' MONEY: BRS WORKING PREZ KT RAMA RAO

UTTARAKHAND CHIEF MINISTER PUSHKAR SINGH DHAMI PRESENTS STATE BUDGET OF ₹1.1 LAKH CRORE

HACK OF THE DAY — PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY WITH ANDROID GUEST MODE

WHAT IT SOLVES: Prevents strangers from snooping through your private messages, photos, and banking apps when they borrow your phone.

WHAT TO DO: Enable "Multiple Users" in your system settings beforehand so the icon appears instantly in your Quick Settings panel. Then create a temporary, sandboxed profile that hides your personal data while keeping Wi-Fi and Bluetooth active.

STEPS:

1. Swipe down with two fingers to open Quick Settings.
2. Tap the User icon (small portrait) and select Add guest.
3. To exit, swipe down again, tap the User icon, and select "Remove guest".
4. Confirm by tapping "Remove" to wipe the session data and return to your main profile using your PIN.

CAREFUL: If the icon is missing, go to Settings > System > Multiple Users to toggle the feature on.

Scan for more hacks

Hacks are based on verified public sources. Readers are advised to follow official websites & updated rules

Tip from **sourabh.kulesh**@timesinternet

Govt to 'optimise' gas supply as West Asia war hits LNG flow

Trimming Likely In Non-Priority Sectors, Fertiliser Sector May See Minor Dip

Dipak Dash & Sidhartha | TNN

GETTING ROUGH

New Delhi: With nearly 40% of India's LNG flow hit due to the West Asia conflict, govt is working on an "optimisation plan" for industries, including priority segments such as fertiliser. Those familiar with the discussions said the petroleum ministry could work out the arrangement as early as Tuesday, with a reduction in supply to fertiliser sector not ruled out. "Fertiliser units will be given enough supply for them to operate at optimum level," said a person in the know.

Some of the fertiliser units are said to be advancing their maintenance shutdowns, and the lower gas availability won't be so much of a concern for now due to the lean season. Besides, with sufficient urea stocks at its disposal, the industry is not overly worried.

Fertiliser Association of India (FAI) said that India is entering agricultural lean season and kharif sowing will begin in June. "During this phase, fertiliser consumption typically remains moderate, allowing the industry to replenish inventories and undertake routine maintenance operations at production facilities."

Amid concerns over a possibly sharp cut, an industry executive said that fertiliser is a priority for govt and the reduction will not be drastic.

The non-priority sectors will, however, need to make do with lower supplies and make alternate arrangements to meet their fuel requirements, insiders indicated.

Company executives said India continues to get 60% of its LNG supply from sources other than West Asia and efforts are underway to tie up more supplies, including from countries such as Australia and Canada.

One of the challenges will be arranging for tankers that can ship the gas as well as ensuring that new sources of gas have surplus capacity to liquify the gas before it is loaded onto vessels. According to official data, there is sufficient stock of fertiliser, estimated to have increased 36.5% to 17.7 million tonnes as of Friday, compared with nearly 13 MTs a year ago.

Cheetah tally climbs to 50 as Jwala delivers 5 cubs at Kuno

Jwala was one of the cheetahs translocated from Namibia in 2022

P.Naveen@timesofindia.com

Bhopal: In a significant milestone for India's ambitious cheetah reintroduction programme, MP's Kuno National Park welcomed five new cubs on Sunday after Namibian cheetah Jwala, a proven mother in the programme, delivered her third litter. The birth has pushed the country's cheetah population to 53, taking the reintroduction effort past the half-century mark for the first time.

Buoyed by success of the project, CM Mohan Yadav had earlier set a target for foresters and conservationists associated with the programme to ensure the cheetah population crosses the half-century mark by the end of this year. Forest officials confirmed that the cubs were born on March 9 inside Kuno's protected habitat under close monitoring by veterinary teams and field staff.

HC annuls MP Cong MLA's bypoll win

Suchandana.Gupta
@timesofindia.com

Bhopal: In a big jolt to Congress, the Gwalior bench of Madhya Pradesh high court on Monday annulled the election of MLA Mukesh Malhotra from the Vijaypur assembly seat in a bypoll held on Nov 2024.

Justice G S Alhuwalia passed the order on an election petition filed by Malhotra's nearest rival in the contest, then sitting minister for forests and environment Ram Niwas Rawat. Following the verdict, Rawat, whom he had defeated by a margin of 7,364 votes, will be the legislator of the constituency.

Speaking to reporters on Monday evening, Ram Niwas Rawat said: "Under Supreme Court directions, every candidate is supposed to provide correct information in an affidavit and the nomination form, so that the people of the constituency know who they are voting for. But the Congress candidate did not reveal the criminal cases registered against him, thereby misguiding the voters. Had he provided correct information, the voters would have voted for the BJP candidate."

State Congress president Jitu Patwari told **TOI** the party was still studying the court order and might challenge it.

CBI summons Vijay to Delhi in stampede case

Chennai: CBI has summoned TVK chief Vijay to its Delhi office Tuesday for interrogation in the Karur stampede case, less than two months after indicating that the previous round of questioning would be his last. CBI also issued notice to DMK MLA V Senthil Balaji to record his statement.

Vijay's counsel sought 15 days to respond to the summons, also requesting that the actor-politician be interrogated in Tamil Nadu. TNN

₹500 fine in Maha village for 'mom', 'sister' expletives

Nashik: Kolgaon panchayat in Maharashtra's Ahilyanagar district has passed a resolution to impose a fine of Rs 500 on those using profanities in the name of someone's mother or sister, **reports Santosh Sonawane**. Puja Jagtap, a self-help group member, proposed the penalty at an event Sunday in the village to mark International Women's Day. The issue prompted detailed discussions at the gram sabha.

IndiGo flight over Africa makes U-turn after 13hrs

Saurabh.Sinha
@timesofindia.com

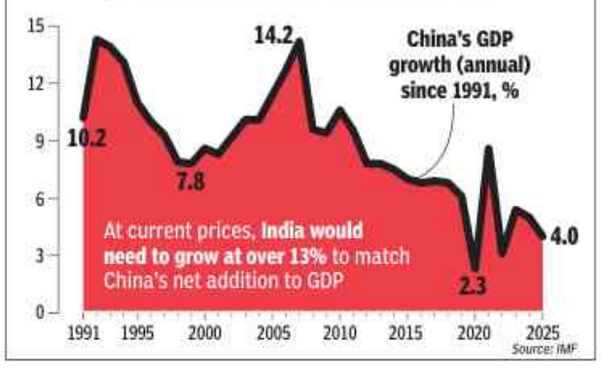
New Delhi: A call sign confusion led to IndiGo's flight to Manchester on Monday flying for over 13 hours and then returning to Delhi from over Africa. The reason: The aircraft operating was a wet-leased (hired with operating crew) Norse Atlantic Boeing 787 which had got the clearance. But being operated by IndiGo and the clearance being sought to enter Eritrea airspace as "iFly" (IndiGo code) led to confusion in the air traffic control there.

Eventually, the aircraft took a U-turn and flew back to Delhi, where it landed at 2.22 pm, about 13 hours after taking off at 1.14 am. IndiGo has all the required enroute clearance for operating these planes and this was just a very costly confusion. Belonging to an EU carrier, Norse Atlantic is following the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) bulletin to avoid West Asia completely. So unlike other carriers like Air India that overfly Saudi Arabia on its routes to and from Europe/UK, North America while bypassing the current enroute no-fly zones, Norse Atlantic resumed its Europe flights for IndiGo only recently after Feb 28. Completely avoiding West Asia, it flies to Africa and then goes to Europe from Eritrea side. Ditto on the way back. This extra-long route is creating its own issues.

STATOISTICS A slice of life in numbers

Even when China grows slowest in 35 years...

The 5% growth clocked by China in 2024-25 added about $478 billion to its economy at current prices. In the same period, India added $271 billion to its GDP



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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I Shamsia Khatoon aged about 59 yrs W/o Syed Moinuddin residing No 8/1 1st A Cross 5th Main Rahamath Nagar Bengaluru 560032 I have wholly changed my former name Shamsia Khatoon Ghouse Syed & in place thereof I assume the name of Shamsia Khatoon so that hereafter be called & known as Shamsia Khatoon vide affidavit dated 05-Mar-2026 sworn before notary SIVAKUMARA M.N. and the same shall be known as "Shamsia Khatoon" for all future purposes.

I, SHANTHI N W/o S Amar Kumar aged 60 years R/o #1387, Sachidananda Ashram Road Belathur Kadugodi Post Bangalore 560067 has changed my name & DOB from S SHANTHAMMA & 10-12-1965 to SHANTHI N and my DOB is 14-10-1965 as per VOTER ID vide affidavit dt: 04-03-2026 sworn before notary M KRISHNAMURTHY for all future purposes

I, Komal Sonegara residing at 347/708, 36th A cross, 5th block, Jayanagar Bangalore 560041 have changed name from Komal Sonegara to Komal Palrecha. Vide affidavit dated 9.3.26 before the notary DK Rameshappa, Bangalore

I,AADITHYA Kumar S/o Nagarajan Ramanathan R/o Ajmera Green Acres, Bengaluru has changed my name from Aadithya Kumar Nagarajan to Aadithya Kumar for all future purposes

LOST & FOUND

I SYED KHALID ALTAF RESIDING at N.A -5 ,Dioamond Villas, 139/4/6, Goolimangala Village, Near APMC, Fruit Market, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal., Bangalore, HAVE LOST MY GIFT DEED ON 08-03-2026 IN BETWEEN 12am and 6.04pm IN ELECTRONIC CITY 2nd PHASE AREA , Which is EXECUTED BY M.ALTAF HUSSAIN IN MY FAVOUR ON 20-03-2023, Document No.ABL-1-12829-2022-23 Stored in CD No.ABLD1403. A Complaint is filed and as the lost Report No. 2098786/2026. FINDERS PLEASE CONTACT- 98450 71817

LOSS OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS My Client Sri. K.N.Krupa Shankar S/o late.Nanjunda Setty, like to inform the general public that I have lost original sale dead dt 14.06.2013 No.BSK-1-02791-2013- 14. Stored at CD.No.BSKD219, in the Layout ALL INDIA ING VYSYA BANK EMPLOYEES UNION, Resisted FIR in BCP Vaid number 1586617/2025 on 30.04.2025. If anybody finds the above said document or in possession of the same, please handover the same to the undersigned at the address given below. M. Muralidhara, advocate, Room No. 308, 2nd floor, amar tower, 1st Mn rd Gandhinagar, Bengaluru- 560009 Ph: 9900655981

LOSS OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS My Client Smt. Ashwini.J W/o Sri.K.N.Shiva Shankar, like to inform the general public that I have lost original sale deed dated 14.06.2013, Document No.BSK-1-02790-2013-14. Stored at CD. No.BSKD219, in the Layout ALL INDIA ING VYSYA BANK EMPLOYEES UNION, Resisted FIR in BCP Vaid number 1610126/2025 dt 16/05/25 If anybody finds the above said document or in possession of the same, please handover the same to the undersigned at the address given below. M. Muralidhara, advocate, Ro om.308, 2nd Flr Amar tower, 1st Mn Rd, Gandhinagar, B'luru 560009. Ph: 9900655981

tender & notices

ROYAL ORCHID HOTELS | RE:GEN:TA HOTELS

ANNUAL TENDER NOTICE

The Royal Orchid Hotels Ltd, Bangalore ,Invites E-Tender Annual Rate Contract participation for 4 JLO Hotels & Resorts and 5 Franchised Hotels, from reputed Hotel suppliers of various categories as per below details mentioned below

The Annual contract are commencing from April 2026 To 31st March 2027

CATEGORIES FOR E-TENDER ANNUAL RATE CONTRACT (2026 TO 2027)

Regional Categories (E-TENDER / E-AUCTION)			
1	Fruits (Indian & Imported)	13	Basa Fish (Fresh & Frozen)
2	Indian Vegetables	14	Indian Provision
3	English Vegetables	15	Imported Provision
4	Milk Products	16	Spices (MDH/CATCH)
5	Eggs	17	Charcoal
6	Fresh Chicken	18	General Stationary
7	Chicken and Pork Products (Processed)	19	Packing Material
		20	Dryfruits
8	Fresh Fish and Sea Foods	21	Frozen Veg Food Items (Peas,Corn and other items)
9	Gel Fuel		
10	Rice (Staff and Basmati)	22	Other Food Items (Mushroom, Garlic/Baby corn Peeled and Sprouts)
11	Fresh Mutton and Meat		
12	LPG	23	Cooking Oil

(Categories subject to change and increase)

Applicants must meet FSSAI/ ISO /other mandatory acts/ rules/ regulations/ certificates/ Lab Test Reports as per FSSAI and compliance as per Industry /Product standard and submit the same with us. Application forms link details can be obtained on payment of INR 1,500 (non-refundable) for each category on payment of Registration Fee online in Corporate Bank Account (Email-ID. corp.accounts@royalorchidhotels.com, accounts1.projects@royalorchidhotels.com & corp.purchase@royalorchidhotels.com) and offline in cash at below mentioned address on all working days from **10/03/26 to 17/03/26 between 9:30 am to 6 pm.** Application and RFQ must be filled online through BOB E Procure/Effigoglobal portal 10/03/26 to 17/03/26 (Last date of RFQ submission online 17/03/26).

E auction/bidding will commence from 18th March onwards, thereafter RFQ collection will be closed.

CONTACT DETAILS:

Ms.Shivani Verma - AGM Corporate Purchase
M: 9902000053,
Mr. Mohammad Eliaz - (Asst.Purchase Manager)
M: 9900092519 &
Ms. Nithya - (Purchase Executive) M: 9980644904
Address : Hotel Royal Orchid - Corporate Office NO.1, Golf Avenue, Adjoining KGA Golf Course, HAL Airport Road, Bangalore -08

Note : Royal Orchid & Regenta Hotels reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever and no representation shall be entertained on this account. Any dispute with respect to the aforementioned tender shall be jurisdiction of Bangalore.

Management

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that my clients have agreed to develop the Schedule Property described in Schedule herein, belonging to **Mrs. BARGEES JEHAN** also known as **BARGEES JEHAN KHALAQUE** alias **ZERTAJ,** Wife of Mr. S. A. Khalaque, presently residing at No.12 Meridian Grove, Langshott, Horley, Surrey, RH6 9XF, UNITED KINGDOM and **Mrs. KAUSER SAYEED** also known as **KAUSER JAHAN,** Wife of Mr. Sayeed Munaver, (both daughters of Late Mohammed Sirajuddin Mecci), residing at Third Floor,No.34, Kanakapura Main Road, Opp. M. N. Krishna Rao Park, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru – 560 004, who have represented that they acquired the Schedule Property as per allotment under Partition Deed dated 12/09/2022, registered as Document No. 04918/2022-23 in Book-I and stored in C.D.No. BSGD 1278 in the Office of the Sub- Registrar, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru entered into between them. Persons objecting for the proposed joint development or having any right in the Schedule Property may lodge their objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within Fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication, failing which it shall be presumed that the title of landowners as mentioned in relation to the Schedule Property is clear, marketable and free from encumbrance/s of any kind whatsoever and no other person has any right, title or interest of any nature whatsoever in the Schedule Property or any part thereof. Further, claims or alleged interest or objections, if any, which are not received within Fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this notice shall be considered to have been consciously waived or abandoned for all intents and purposes. Any objections and/or claims and/or response received thereafter will not be binding on my clients and will proceed to develop the Schedule Property as if there are no claims/objections.

:SCHEDULE PROPERTY:

All that Property bearing Municipal Nos.50-31-32 and 50-31-32/1 (Old Nos.3/8, 3/B1 and 3/B2) measuring about 22233.32 Sq. Ft., situated at Kanakapura Main Road, Opp. M. N. Krishna Rao Park, Basavanagudi, Municipal Ward No.153 of Jayanagar, Bengaluru and bounded by:

East : Private Property;
West : Kanakapura Road;
North : Private Property; and
South : Omer Sheriff Road.

Sri. KUSUMA R. MUNIRAJU,
Sri. KUSUMA KAUSHIK,
Advocates,
101, "EDEN PARK",
No. 20, Vittal Mallya Road,
Bengaluru -560 001.
Tel: 080-22217971.
Bangalore Date:09/03/2026

TENDERS

CONFIDENT Atik Sarapura invites tenders from international lift companies for replacement of lifts. Interested parties email by 13th March - atik.association@gmail.com

Union Bank of India

Procurement Vertical
Central Office, 239,
Vidhan Bhavan Marg,
Mumbai-400 021

TENDER DOCUMENT FOR RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF AIR-CONDITIONERS FOR BRANCHES & PREMISES OF UNION BANK OF INDIA ON A PAN-INDIA BASIS

Union Bank of India invites sealed Tender documents under a two bid system for the Rate Contract for Supply and Installation of Air-Conditioners for various branches and premises of Union Bank of India across pan India, from leading OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturers) of Air Conditioning Systems. Detailed information and Tender documents are available on the Bank's website **www.unionbankofindia.bank.in** and the Government eprocurement portal **www.eprocure.gov.in** . The last date for submission of applications is 30.03.2026 up to 15:00 hours.

The Bank reserves the right to reject/ cancel any or all applications without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Asst. General Manager

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Koramangala: 9167395364,
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Sarajpura: 8879932503

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SONBHADRA: A DISTRICT REFORMED

GUIDED BY PURPOSE, DEFINED BY IMPACT

Sonbhadra's advancement under the Aspirational Districts Programme reflects a strategic, cross-sectoral model, centered around sustainable growth and tangible outcomes.

Scores of Key Performance Indicators across core sectors are:

Basic Infrastructure
SCORE **89.6** (June 2025)

Health & Nutrition
SCORE **74.4** (June 2025)

Education
SCORE **82** (June 2025)

Sonbhadra is steadily emerging as a symbol of focused governance and inclusive growth. Progress is being guided by a focused evaluation of Key Performance Indicators across priority sectors, ensuring data-driven interventions and steady improvements in overall development benchmarks

ODOP CRAFTS & INDUSTRIES OF SONBHADRA

- Elegantly designed carpets of Sonbhadra are immensely popular
- Sonbhadra is also known for its hand knitted and hand tufted carpets
- These handmade products are known for their artistry, creative designs and patterns. Artisans use traditional methods for making this unique product
- This type of intricate designing can only be found on handmade carpets. At the same time, they also make decorations for the houses and banquets
- The products are marketed not only within the district but also in nearby cities, expanding economic opportunities for local craftsmen
- Sonbhadra is the second largest district of Uttar Pradesh. It is also known as an industrial zone and has a rich repository of minerals like bauxite, limestone, coal, gold etc
- The southern region of Sonbhadra is referred to as the 'Energy Capital of India'
- The said region has many power stations and has three coal-based thermal power plants
- It has become an industrial hub
- Some of the hills have limestone and many of them also have coal deposits

PICS: DIPR, UP GOVT

Carpets from Sonbhadra are highly popular

LAKHPATI DIDI

Community Resource Persons (CRPs) 909

Potential Lakhpati Didis (PLDs) 94,552

Digital Aajeevika Register (DARs) 1,85,748

CONNECTIVITY

Road: Robertsganj, the headquarters of Sonbhadra, is located about 88 km (55 mi) from the city of Varanasi, which has the nearest airport. It is well connected to Lucknow, Allahabad, Varanasi, Mirzapur, Gorakhpur, Ayodhya, Ambikapur, Sasaram & Garhwa by road. The highway connecting Varanasi and Waidhan passes through the district

Rail: It is connected by rail to Delhi, Allahabad, Ranchi and Patna. Some notable trains passing through the district are Muri Express, Jharkhand Swarna Jayanti Express, Triveni Express, Bhopal Express (Bhopal-Howrah) weekly and Shaktipanj Express, Intercity Express (Singrauli-Chopan Varanasi)

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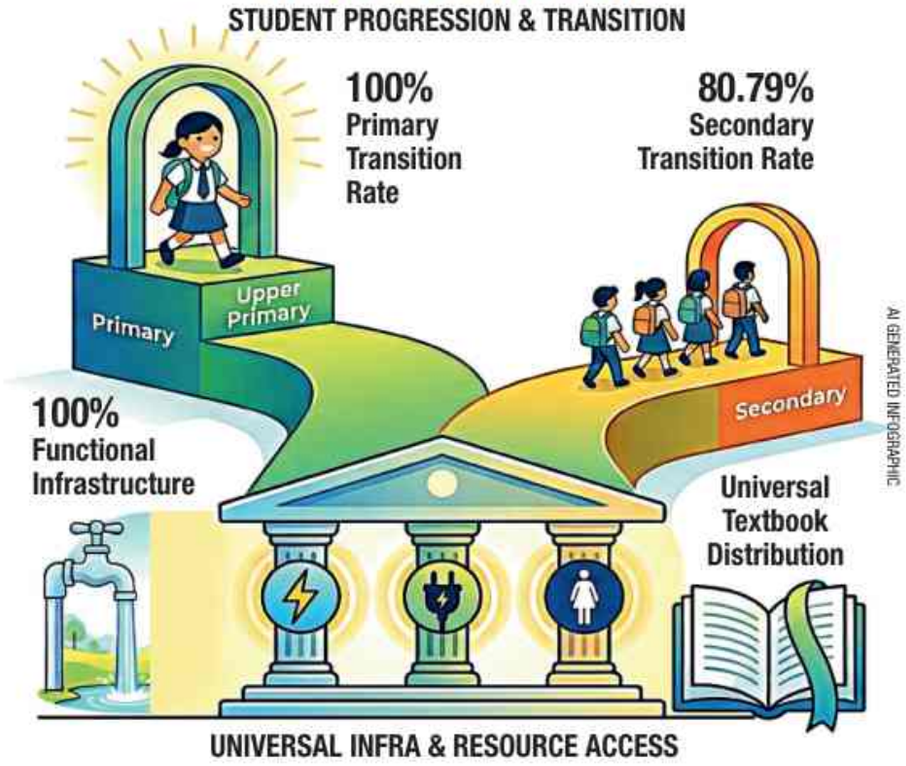
SONBHADRA'S EDUCATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

STUDENT PROGRESSION & TRANSITION



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UNIVERSAL INFRA & RESOURCE ACCESS

HEALTHCARE & NUTRITION: MILESTONES ACHIEVED BY SONBHADRA

Tracking the progress of the transformation of Aspirational Districts' programme, Sonbhadra has achieved significant milestones. As of December 2025, the district has attained 100% success across critical maternal health, specialist service, and outreach indicators, demonstrating rapid advancements

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ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SUCCESS RATE

TB Treatment Success Rate 94.68%

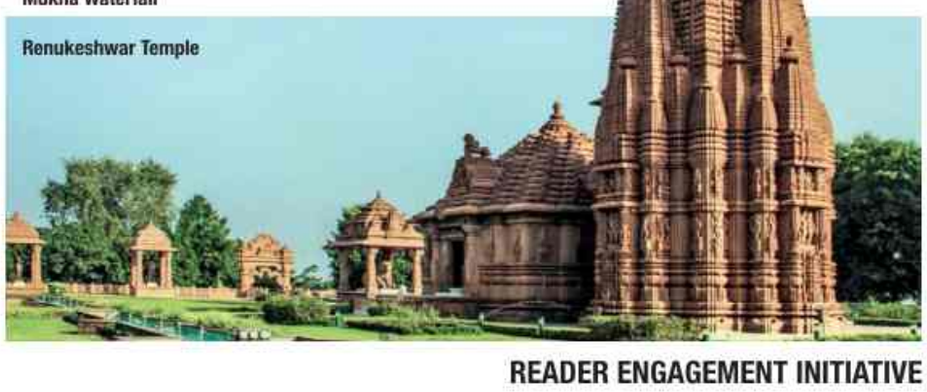
Functional First Referral Units (FRUs) 100%

PHC Compliance with IPHS Norms 81.08%

A HUB FOR HERITAGE & TOURISM

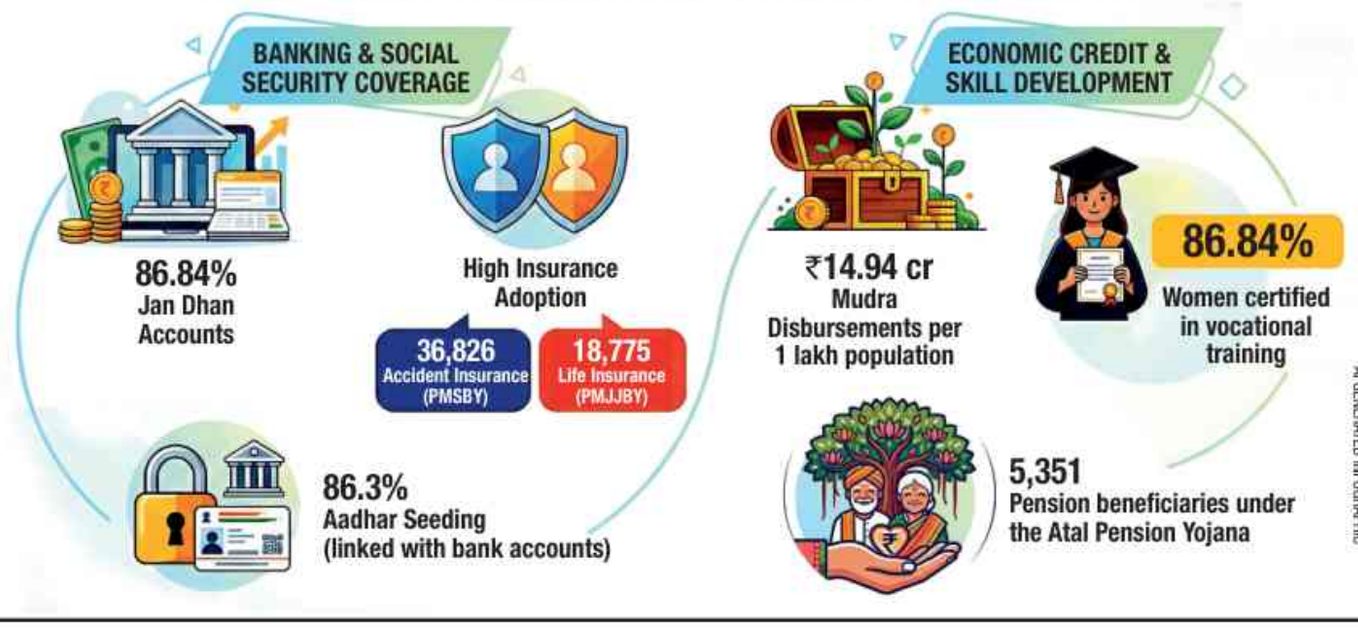
- Sonbhadra was famous as Gupt Kashi during 11th to 13th century
- Gotthani Shiv Mandir (Gupta Kashi) is of great religious significance. It is located on the confluence of Renu, Sone and Vijul rivers. This is the chief pilgrim centre of tribals
- Kund Vasini Dham (Kudari Devi) Shaktipeeth, of great spiritual and historical importance, is situated on the western bank of river Sone
- Amila Bhawani Dham attracts local residents devotees along with those from adjoining states like Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand
- Mukha Waterfall is situated 40 km west of the District headquarter on the bank of river Belan. A huge number of beautiful rock paintings add to the beauty and specialty of the place
- Renukeshwar Mahadev Temple is located on a hill in Renukoot, Sonbhadra. Known for its scenic, clean campus and large Nandi statue, the temple sees high visitor numbers during the month of Shravan

Mukha Waterfall



Renukeshwar Temple

FINANCIAL INCLUSION & SKILL ENHANCEMENT



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READER ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

Despite 'Make-in-India' focus, India remains 2nd largest arms buyer in world, says Sipri report

Surendra.Singh
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Despite a slight dip in imports due to govt's impetus on 'Make-in-India' weapons, India remains the world's second largest importer of major arms, accounting for 8.2% of the global share between 2021 and 2025, according to a new report by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

The report highlights a sharp decline in Delhi's decades-long dependence on Russia for arms supply. Moscow's share, the report, says has fallen from 70% in 2011-15 to 40% in 2021-25, with France and Israel becoming the big gainers, as their respective shares rising to 29% and 15%. The 4% fall in India's arms imports compared to 2016-2020 cycle was due to the country's stress on indigenous weapons. "The decrease can be partly attributed to India's growing ability to design and produce its own weapons — although there are often substantial delays in domestic production," the report said.

This trend in Indian imports will continue in the coming years as a series of big-ticket defence deals with western countries are on the cards, including 114 Rafale fighter jets from France, six air-independent propulsion-equipped conventional submarines from Germany, six additional P-8I Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft from the US, and several deals on missile defence systems and drones with Israel.

EUROPE TOUR

England & Europe
16 Days
England, France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Vatican.
Dates: May 5, 26, Jun 9, 23, Jul 14, 28, Aug 11, 25, Sep 15, 29, Oct 13, 27, Nov 10.
1 70222 59008

Best of Europe
13 Days
France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, Vatican, Italy.
Dates: May 8, 15, 29, Jun 12, 19, 26, Jul 3, 17, 31, Aug 7, 14, 28, Sep 4, 18, 25.
2 93641 04366

Beauty of Europe
9 Days
France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland.
Dates: May 8, 15, 29, Jun 12, 19, 26, Jul 3, 17, 31, Aug 7, 14, 28, Sep 4, 18, 25.
3 93641 04373

United Kingdom
11 Days
DUBLIN, Trinity College, BELFAST, Titanic Museum, Ferry from Belfast to Glasgow, GLASGOW, EDINBURGH, Edinburgh Castle, LAKE WINDERMERE, Cruise on Lake Windermere, MANCHESTER, OXFORD, Oxford University, LONDON, Madame Tussauds, Ride on London Eye, Tower of London, Oval Cricket Stadium, Cruise on River Thames.
Dates: May 5, 26, Jun 9, 23, Jul 14, 28, Aug 11, 25, Sep 15, 29, Oct 13, 27, Nov 10.
4 70222 59008

For EUROPE Why ADIGAS YATRA

- Senior citizens Friendly. Tailor made itinerary.
- Don't just visit. Experience the Europe with the 32 years expertise.
- No rush, no hurry and a relaxed itinerary.
- Stay in Branded 4* hotels.
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- Indian cuisine in handpicked good restaurants.
- Services of an experienced Tour Manager
- Self-explained itinerary with must see places.
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- No language barrier as your co-tourists are from Karnataka.
- Since Kannadigas are fellow travelers, the similarities in language, culture, food, etc. make the trip memorable.

K. Nagaraj Adiga
Founder, Adigas Yatra

Scandinavia
10 Days
HELSINKI, Senate Square, Uspenski Cathedral, Cruise Silja to Stockholm, STOCKHOLM, Royal Vasa Ship Museum, City Hall, Drottningholm Palace, NORWAY IN NUTSHELL, Ride on the Flamsbana - The most scenic railway journey, Fjord cruise to Copenhagen, OSLO, Top of Holmenkollen Ski Jump, Vigeland Sculpture Park, COPENHAGEN, The Iconic Little Mermaid.
Dates: May 15, 29, Jun 12, 26, Jul 10, 24, Aug 14, 28, Sep 4, 18.
5 70222 59008

East Europe
11 Days
MUNICH, BMW Welt, BERLIN, Topography of Terror Museum, Little Big city Berlin, DRESDEN, PRAGUE, The Charles Bridge, Old Town Square, Czesid Krumlov, VIENNA, Schönbrunn Palace, BRATISLAVA, BUDAPEST, Hungarian Horse Show, Cruise on River Danube, ZAGREB, SLOVENIA, Ljubljana, Photostop at Lake Bled, ZELL AM SEE.
Dates: May 8, 22, Jun 5, 19, Jul 3, 17, Aug 7, 21, Sep 4, 18, Oct 2, 16, Nov 6, 13.
6 93641 04373

Portugal & Spain
10 Days
LISBON, Sintra & Cascais, SEVILLE, Flamenco Show, TOLEDO, Sword Factory, MADRID, Santiago Bernabeu, VALENCIA, BARCELONA, Montjuic Cable Car, Sagrada Family, La Ramola, MARSEILLES, CANNES, NICE, Promenade des Anglais.
Dates: May 8, 22, Jun 5, 19, Jul 3, 17, Aug 7, 21, Sep 4, 18, Oct 2, 16, Nov 6, 13.
7 93641 04366

Adigas Yatra
+91 94494 78944
www.adigasyatra.com
News Website : www.adigasyatranews.com
care@adigasyatra.com
Follows Us :
Facebook Instagram News Website Youtube

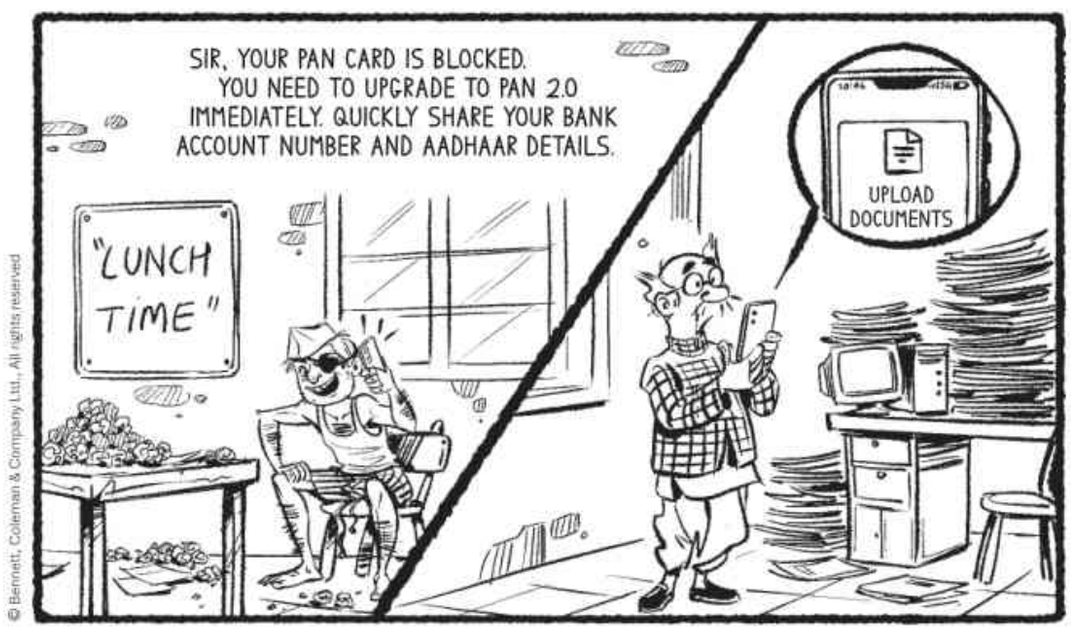
A LIFE THAT GAVE MORE THAN IT TOOK

R. VENUGOPAL REDDY
Ex-Councillor, Kodandarampuram
30 April 1951 – 9 March 2026

Most lives are measured in achievements. Only a rare few, in kindness. Known for his generosity and unwavering willingness to help, he touched countless lives, leaving behind a quiet legacy of compassion and kindness. His memory will endure in the many hearts that were fortunate to know him.

Deeply missed by his wife **Mrs Shamantha.**
By his children and their spouses
Kiran & Nithya | Vijay & Sowmya | Kavitha & Ram
Sunitha & Mahendranath
Fondly remembered by his grandchildren.

#ConmanVsCommonMan



Often, problems arise when private details go public.

Avoid sharing confidential financial and personal information on sites, links, or with callers claiming to provide PAN 2.0 services without verifying their authenticity and if someone tries to deceive you, just say, "I'm not a fool".

UPI's safety + a smart you.

UPI UNIFIED PAYMENTS INTERFACE
Easy. Safe. Instant.

Issued in public interest by
NPCI भारतीय राष्ट्रीय भुगतान निगम NATIONAL PAYMENTS CORPORATION OF INDIA

Report cyber financial fraud on **helpline no.1930.**

tgthr./03/25/160

Rajasthan State Beverages Corporation Limited

(Government of Rajasthan Undertaking)
Plot No.02 CoERRA Bhawan, (Fourth & Fifth Floor) Jhalana Institutional Area, Jaipur
web- https://iems.rajasthan.gov.in, email- Stores.rsbcl@rajasthan.gov.in

S.No. :- F1()/RSBCL/Store/2025-26/8251 Dated :- 06/03/2026

Corrigendum

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the Pre-Submission Conference for E-Bid No. 54 dated 02.02.2026 for Expression of Interest (EOI) has been rescheduled to 13.03.2026 at 12:00 PM and the EOI submission end date has been extended to 02.04.2026 at 6:00 PM.

Raj.Samwad/C/25/22033 **Executive Director**

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING WING

Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd Floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023
Phone No.: 080-29557023 E-mail: **cekhsdrp@gmail.com**

No: HFWD/EW/CE/TA-3/AE-1/TND/2025-26/4344 Date:09.03.2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible Contractors registered in KPWD in two Cover tender document system through Karnataka Public Procurement portal for the following work **(1)** Description of works: **Reconstruction of Primary Health Centre (H Type) at Turuvanur Village, Chitradurga Taluk, Chitradurga District.** Amount Put to Tender: **Rs.316.64 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 4.75 Lakhs.** Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon): **09 Months.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **24.03.2026 up to 16.00 hrs (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **25.03.2026 at 16.01 hrs.**

The tender details can be downloaded from the KPP Portal Platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and tender processing fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: 1. All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids / individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. 2. Henceforth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only on KPP Portal.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
[illegible]
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: midhly@yahoo.co.in [illegible] 08284-220113
[illegible]/4702/2025-26/2530 [illegible]

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

[illegible] KW-4 [illegible]

(1) [illegible] 10152 (2) [illegible] 10154 (3) [illegible] 10155 [illegible] "https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in" [illegible] 10-03-2026 [illegible] 18-03-2026 [illegible] 20-03-2026 [illegible] 05.15 [illegible] 23-03-2026 [illegible] 11.00 [illegible]

[illegible]

Government of Rajasthan
Local Self Government Department
(Directorate of Local Bodies, Rajasthan, Jaipur) G-3, Rajmahal Residency, Near Civil lines, Railway Crossing, Jaipur
Tel No.: + 91 141 2222469 Fax No.: +91 141 2222403 website : www.lsg.urban.rajasthan.gov.in

No: F 55 () PA/CE/SBM-2/DLB/Sewerage/2026/3795 Date: 24/02/2026

Notice Inviting Bids (NIB)

UBN NO: DLB2526WLOB35810

Online Technical and Financial Bids in Single Stage Two Envelops are invited on behalf of Governor of Rajasthan by the State Mission Director, SBM-2.0 (U), Jaipur for Sewerage and Septage Management for sewer system with STPs and laying, jointing, testing and commissioning of Sewerage System in 07 ULBs including 1 year defect liability with 10 years O&M up to 27.03.2026.

Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the Procurement Portal (http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) of the State and LSG Department website. The approximate value of the procurement is **Rs. 234.41 Cr.**

DIPR/C/4981/2026 State Mission Director, SBM-U

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in Contact Number : 9646123323

Tender Inquiry No. PPR-09/2026 Dated: 06.03.2026

Chief Engineer/PP&R Organization, Shed No. D-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender under three-part bid system for PSPCL for Integrated Power Procurement, Trading, Scheduling, and Analytics Platform. For detailed NIT & tender specifications please refer to http://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 06.03.2026 onwards.

Note :- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at http://eproc.punjab.gov.in

C 360/26, DPR/Pb. : 1079/12/2025-26/9228

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact No. 96461-36447)

(Short Term Tender Notice)

Tender Enquiry No : 06/ASR/GC/TS/PSPCL/2025-26 Dated: 09.03.2026

Addl. S.E, Grid Construction Division, Amritsar has invited e-tender for Outsourcing work of erection, testing and commissioning of Additional 3 no. 20 MVA Power Transformers (at 66 Kv S/s Ramdass, Jakopur and Gillan) along with complete bay equipments on partial turnkey mode under RDSS scheme under Grid Construction Division, Pspcl, Amritsar under Grid Const. Circle, Pspcl, Ludhiana.

For more details please refer to website https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 11.03.2026, 1:00 **pm onwards.**

Note : Corrigendum and addendum if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in only.

C 355/26, DPR/Pb. : 1079/12/2025-26/9220

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH
E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Bid Submission Schedule (Online)	Opening Technical Bid (Online)
	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - SWM Division MC		
1.	Desilting/Cleaning of existing Sewer Lines by mechanized system using Super Sucker/ Machine and CCTV Including disposal of Silt/malba to appropriate disposal place along the periphery of village Kajheri under the jurisdiction of SDE MCPH Sub Division No. 18, Chandigarh (Ch: To Revenue Head)- (Re-invite) **App. Amount : Rs. 7,70,750/-** **Earnest Money: Rs. 15,415/-** **Time Period: 02 Months** **Tender Fee: Rs.1,000/-**	09.03.2026 at 3:00 P.M To 16.03.2026 at 11:00 A.M	16.03.2026 at 11:30 A.M

Note:- All other terms and conditions and complete DNIT are uploaded on website https://etenders.chd.nic.in

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

SWM Division, Room No. 612, 6th Floor, New Deluxe Building, MC Sector-17, Chandigarh email id : mcc.swm2020@gmail.com

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-93/3818/2025-26 Date: 09.03.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item Rate Tenders under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the work of :

Name of the Work : Resurfacing of asphalt road at Road No.2 and other maintenance works at Badanaguppe-Kellamballi Industrial Area, Chamarajanagar Taluk, Chamarajanagar District. (Reserved for SC Category).

The last date and time of receipt of tender is :**25.03.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-

DIPR/CP/6117/Zen/2025-26 Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDERS (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders in Two Stage Tender System from eligible Contractors for the following Works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount
	Office of the Chief Engineer (UWP), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.	
	IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(UWP)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-1/912/2025-26	**Date: 07-03-2026**
1	DPR for 1.25 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant based on Constructed Wetlands followed by Ultra Filtration and UV for Mahadevapura Lake.	**Rs. 491.51 Lakhs** **Rs. 6.24 Lakhs**
	IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(UWP)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-1/910/2025-26	**Date: 07-03-2026**
2	Work of Improving Lake Water Quality using Bio Remediation Method.	**Rs. 397.58 Lakhs** **Rs. 5.96 Lakhs**

For above works, Last Date for Receipt of Tenders: **08-04-2026 upto 16.00 Hours.** Tender will be Opened on: **09-04-2026 at 17.00 Hours.**

Sd/- Chief Engineer (UWP)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement Process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/Adverto/6098/2025-26

M.P. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION. LTD.

(Government of Madhya Pradesh Undertaking)
SECRETARIAT FOR SINGLE WINDOW SYSTEM
21, Arera Hills, Bhopal-462011 M.P. (India), Tel. : (+91) 755-2571830, 2575618, 3523555, 3523505
E-mail : helpdesk@mpidc.co.in, Website : www.invest.mp.gov.in, CIN : U51102MP1977SGC001392

MPIDC/RFP/CE/NIT-254 Date : 09.03.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Online Item rate bids for the following work are invited through e-procurement system **http://mptenders.gov.in**, from registered Suppliers/OEMs/firms who have experience in similar type of works :-

Procurement, Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Validation, Documentation & Qualification of Equipment & Instruments for Common Infrastructure Facility, Testing Facility in Medical Devices Park at Vikram Udyogpuri, Ujjain

S. No.	Name of Facility/Equipment	Lab No.	PAC (in Cr.) incl. GST	EMD in Rs.	Time Period (in Months) (i/c Rainy Season)
1	Biocompatibility Testing Facility	A	Rs. 13.87	Rs. 10 Lakhs	06
2	R & D Centre (Incubation Hub)	F			
3	Plastics Processing Assembly and Packaging	H			
4	PC Board Manufacturing including component insertion and wave soldering	I			
5	Ethylene Oxide Sterilization	J			

Detailed NIT and other details can be viewed on the above-mentioned portal shortly. The Corrigendum, if any shall not be published in the newspaper; it will be uploaded on the e-procurement system. The bidder shall quote rates inclusive of all duties, taxes, royalties and other levies; and the Employer shall not be liable for the same.

M.P. Madhyam/124834/2026 **CHIEF ENGINEER**

34001/169/2526

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA
NIRMAN SOUDHA, KESHARI NAGAR, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR - 751 001
1st corrigendum to Bid Identification No. CE-BRIDGES - 17/ 2025 - 26

Following changes are made to the Invitation for the work "Improvement such as widening and strengthening of Turubudi PWD Road to Kuanpada via Limigam - Jhagadapalli - Kendigumma, Banibasa (ODR) from 0/000 km to 17/437 km in the District of Ganjam for the year 2025-26" vide **Bid Identification No. CE - BRIDGES - 17/2025-26.**

- The above mentioned work at Indicative **Total Project Cost** at Col.03 of the project cost may be read as **Rs. 49,29,31,620.00** in place of **Rs. 49,56,58,373.00**.
- The above mentioned work at Indicative **Total EMD Cost** at Col.05 of the project cost may be read as **Rs. 49,29,400.00 Crore** in place of **Rs. 49,56,600.00**
- The Last date of submission of tender is extended upto **5.00 PM of dt. 25.03.2026.**
- Bids received on line shall be opened at **11.30 AM on dt. 26.03.2026.**

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, Bridges
Odisha, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-34001/34174/1/25-26/0033

34001/170/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail: ceroads.bbsr@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CE-Roads-I-22/2025-26

1. The Engineer-in-Chief (Civil), Roads-I, Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover system through ONLINE MODE form eligible contractors for Roadwork as mentioned below :
2. Nature of work : Road works
3. No. of work : 15 Nos.
4. Tender Paper cost : Rs. 10,000.00
5. Class of Contractor : 'A' Class / Special Class / Super Class
6. Available of bid document the website : From 10.00 A.M. of 12.03.2026 to 5.30 PM of 30.03.2026
7. Date of opening of Bid : Dt.31.03.2026 at 11.30 A.M.
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: **https://tenderodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/-
Engineer-in-Chief (Civil),
Roads-I, Odisha
OIPR-34001/34117/1/25-26/0035

PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT
Uttarakhand Disaster Preparedness & Resilience Project (U-PREPARE)

5TH FLOOR, USDMA Building, 36, IT Park, Sahastradhara Road, DEHRADUN
Website: www.u-prepare.com; E-Mail procurement.uprepare@gmail.com

Ref. No.: 866/Gen File/UFSE/U-PREPARE/2025 Date: 28/02/2026

NOTICE FOR REQUEST FOR BIDS

The Government of India has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the UPREPARE and intends to apply part of the proceeds for following packages of Goods. Bids are invited for the following Packages and a complete set of bidding documents in English may be downloaded by interested eligible bidders from the website **https://uktenders.gov.in** which will be available from **02.03.2026.** Bids must be submitted online on the website **https://uktenders.gov.in**

S.No.	Package No.	Name of Package
1	01B/FIRE/RFB/UPREPARE/2025	Procurement of Multipurpose Fire Tender for Fire & Emergency Services
2	14B/FIRE/RFB/UPREPARE/2025	Procurement of Advance Mini Fire Emergency Rescue Tender for Fire & Emergency Services
3	12B/FIRE/RFB/UPREPARE/2025	Procurement of Chemical Suit for Fire & Emergency Services

Note-: 1. The corrigendum for the above packages will be uploaded on website *www.uktenders.gov.in* & *www.u-prepare.com*
2. Email id procurement.prepare@gmail.com may be contacted for any information related to the bids.

Program Director

GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Re e-Tender is invited for the following works by Superintending Engineer (Mech), as per Tender Condition

Work	File No	Quantity in (Nos.)	Approximate Value	EMD
Purchase of 6 nos. of Vehicle-Mounted High-Capacity Suction Cum Jetting Machines (In 3 Packages) for the use of North, Central & South Region (As per Tender Condition)	M1/ 2783A / 2025	2	4,00,00,000/-	4,00,000/-
	M1/ 2785A / 2025	2	4,00,00,000/-	4,00,000/-
	M1/ 2786A / 2025	2	4,00,00,000/-	4,00,000/-

Last Date and time for bid Submission: **06.04.2026,3.00** PM
Tender Opening Date and Time: **07.04.2026, 3.30** PM
For further details please visit: **https://tntenders.gov.in.**

DIPR / 1654 / Tender / 2026 **Superintending Engineer (Mech)**

TIMES
BUSINESS 2 BUSINESS
INTEGRATING SOLUTIONS
INDUSTRIAL SERVICES

WANTED

Steamhouse is-

Seeking Installed Captive Power Plant (CPP) for sale

Owners of Captive Power Plants (CPP) are interested in selling / leasing preferably on as is, where is basis may contact.

Also looking for industries with **Surplus Steam**, generating excess steam and are willing to sell- partner with us for reliable off-take solutions.

Please Contact us:-
+91-9909107316
info@steamhouse.in

steam house

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMILNADU LIMITED
ANGADI DIVISION

9th Floor, Sigapi Aachi Building, 18/3, Rukmani Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008. www.elcot.tn.gov.in | +91 44 2855 6120 | tenders@elcotangadi.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Tender No. E-ANGADI-ST-H012-2026-0007

ELCOT Angadi Division invites tender for **"Selection of System Integrator to Supply, Install, Commission and Maintain SDWAN solution for SCRB for a period of 5 years"**. For complete details, please visit **www.tntenders.gov.in.** Pre-bid meeting: **26.03.2026, 3 PM.** Last date for submission of e-bids: **29.04.2026, 3 PM.** For queries: **tenders@elcotangadi.in.**

DIPR/1672/Tender/2026 MANAGING DIRECTOR

12001/46/2526

ODISHA POLICE
STATE HEADQUARTERS
Cuttack

Odisha Police
Office of the D.G & I.G. of Police, Odisha, Cuttack
Tel.: 0671-2304001, Website: www.odishapolice.gov.in, Email: aig-prov.odpol@od.gov.in
RFP No. 43-RFP-CCTV-2025-2026 Date : 07.03.2026

Online Bids through e-Tender Portal **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** are invited from the eligible bidders for Supply and Installation of CC TV systems for Odisha Police, Odisha, Cuttack, during the current financial year 2025-26 as per the schedule mentioned below.

Sl. No.	Name of Item	Approximate quantity
1	43 -RFP- CCTV-2025-2026	2 Sets

Events	Date
RFP Issue Date	**07.03.2026**
RFP Submission Due Date and time	**16.03.2026**
Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids	**17.03.2026**
Bid to RA enabled	Yes
Tender Document fee (**(Non-refundable Rs.590/- (Rs.500/- + 18% GST (Rs. 90/-)**)	In favour of A.I.G. of Police (Prov.), Odisha, Cuttack payable at Cuttack. (Demand Draft)
EMD (Earnest Money Deposit) Rs. 52,000/- (Fifty two thousand only)	In favour of A.I.G. of Police (Prov.), Odisha, Cuttack payable at Cuttack. (Demand Draft)

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: https://tendersodisha.gov.in The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- **A.I.G. of Police (Provisioning,)**
Odisha, Cuttack
(Tender Calling Authority)

Website- police.odisha.gov.in
Email- sphqrs.odpol@od.gov.in

Buxi Bazar, Cuttack-753001
Tel./Fax No. 0671-230435
OIPR-12001/12029/1/25-26/0008

RAJASTHAN MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.

(A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking), Gandhi Block, Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur-302005, India,
Phone No: 0141-2228066, 2228064, Website: www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in,
CIN : U24232RJ2011SGC035067, E-mail : edpssrmsc@rajasthan.gov.in

Ref No. : F.02 (438)/RMSCL/Procurement/Drug/NIB-17/2025-26/3797 Dated :- 27/02/2026

Notice Inviting E-Bids

E-bids for rate contract cum empanelment for supply of following items are invited from eligible bidders:-

S. No.	Item Name/Description	Ref. No.	UBN	Estimated Value in Rs.	Time & Last date for bid submission
1.	Drug & Medicines	F.02 (438)/RMSCL/Procurement/Drug/NIB-17/2025/3797 Dated :- 27/02/2026	MSC2526GLRC00095	07.84 Crore	13.03.2026 Up to 11.00 AM

Other particulars of the bids may be visited on the procurement portal **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in** and may be downloaded from there.

Executive Director (Procurement)
RMSCL

Raj.Samwad/C/25/22003

कार्यालय मुख्य अभियन्ता, नगर निगम, बरेली

पत्रांकः 403/मु0अभि0/नि0वि0/2025-26 दिनांकः 09.03.2026

अल्पकालीन पुनः ई-निविदा आमन्त्रण सूचना

ई-निविदा सूचना शासनादेश सं0- 3890/नौ-5-149सा/2019 नगर विकास अनुभाग-05 उ0प्र0 शासन लखनऊ दिनांक 20 सितम्बर 2019 के अनुपालन में ठेकेदारों से निर्माण कार्यों हेतु निविदायें टू बिड पद्धति (तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय) के माध्यम से निम्न प्रकार से आमंत्रित की जाती है। ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित प्रपत्र उत्तर प्रदेश की ई-प्रक्योरमेन्ट की वेबसाईट **https://etender.up.nic.in** व नगर निगम की वेबसाइट **www.nagarnigambareilly.com** पर देखी जा सकता है।

उपवन योजना के अन्तर्गत पुनः ई-निविदा आमंत्रित हेतु (क्रमांक सं0-01)	
ई-निविदा डाउनलोड प्रारम्भ की तिथि/समय	11.03.2026 (03:00 PM)
ई-निविदा अपलोड की प्रारम्भ तिथि/समय	11.03.2026 (04:00 PM)
ई-निविदा अपलोड की अंतिम तिथि/समय	17.03.2026 (03:00 PM)
ई-निविदा खोली जाने की तिथि/समय	17.03.2026 (04:00 PM)
फाईनेंशियलई - निविदा खोली जाने हेतु	After Technical Evaluation

कार्यों का विवरण, नियम व शर्तें नगर निगम बरेली के वेबसाईट **www.nagarnigambareilly.com** पर ई-निविदा लिंक एवं ई-पोर्टल **https://etender.up.nic.in** पर उपलब्ध है। किसी परिवर्तन, संशोधन व अतिरिक्त सूचनाओं के लिये उक्त वेबसाइट पर देखी जा सकती है।

मुख्य अभियन्ता
नगर निगम बरेली।

Nat'l interest, including energy security and trade flows, will always be paramount: EAM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Describing the ongoing conflict in West Asia as "an issue of particular concern", given that the region houses a crore Indians and holds the key to India's energy security, external affairs minister S Jaishankar on Monday told Parliament that New Delhi's approach would be guided by "national interest".

"Our national interest, including energy security and trade flows, will always be paramount," Jaishankar said while making a statement on the security situation in West Asia in both Houses of Parliament. He also pointed to India's pitch for de-escalation and return to dialogue and diplomacy, and identified the well-being and security of the Indian community in the region as the govt's priority.

The statement made no concession to the demand by Congress and others in opposition for condemnation of the US and Israel for attacking Iran and killing its supreme leader Ali Hosseini Khamenei. However, Jaishankar said India had promptly accepted the requests from three Iranian naval vessels to dock at Indian ports. The Iranian side requested permission on Feb 28 (the day the conflict began) and it was granted on March 1, he said. "We believe that this was the right thing to do and the Iranian foreign minister has expressed his country's thanks for this humane gesture," he said. One Iranian vessel, IRIS Lavan, docked in Kochi on March 4 and its crew is currently in Indian naval facilities, he said.

We believed and continue to believe that dialogue and diplomacy should be pursued to de-escalate tensions and address underlying issues... it is also imperative that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states in the region be respected

S JAISHANKAR
External affairs minister

Jaishankar disclosed that IRIS Dena — sunk by a US submarine off the Sri Lankan coast on March 4 — along with two sister ships, IRIS Bushehr and IRIS Lavan, had been permitted to dock at Indian ports.

While Dena and Bushehr chose not to avail of the permission they had sought, IRS Lavan is docked at Kochi port. The sinking of frigate Dena, while she was returning from a naval exercise in India, had triggered concerns about the expansion of the conflict to the Indian Ocean Region.

The minister's stress on "national interest" being the paramount consideration was being seen as indicative of govt's decision not to condemn Israel, which has emerged as a reliable security partner, or disregard the threat it faces from Iran — which has vowed to annihilate Israel — and its terror proxies.

Also, many in govt don't agree with opposition's framing of Khamenei as a 'friend of India', and point to the slain Ayatollah's meddling in the J&K issue, including his description of the abrogation of Article 370 as "ugly", and bracketing India with places like Gaza and Myanmar where Muslims were suffering.

The importance of ties with the US and the volatility they have acquired under the Trump administration was another consideration for the govt to tread carefully. While reiterating India's repeated calls for an early end to the conflict that has witnessed mounting casualties, "including at the leadership level in Iran, as well as destruction of infrastructure in the region", Jaishankar said, "I am confident that the House joins me in expressing sorrow at the loss of lives."

"We believed and continue to believe that dialogue and diplomacy should be pursued to de-escalate tensions and address underlying issues... it is also imperative that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states in the region be respected," he said.

The minister added that the CCS, at its meeting on March 3, discussed the airstrikes in Iran and the subsequent attacks in several Gulf countries and expressed concerns regarding the safety and security of the Indian community in the region. "The committee was apprised of difficulties faced by Indian travellers transiting the region and by students appearing for scheduled examinations in these countries. It directed all departments concerned to take appropriate measures to respond to problems," he said.

Jaishankar said two Indian mariners have already been lost to such attacks, while another is missing. Sharing that PM Modi "continues to closely monitor emerging developments" and maintains contact with leadership of affected countries, while relevant ministries coordinate to ensure effective response, Jaishankar said India remains committed to ensuring safety of its citizens affected, having operated around a hundred flights so far to bring back those stranded or looking to return home.

'India accepted Iran's request for port of call for 3 warships before US attack'

New Delhi: The Indian Navy had accepted Iran's request to allow three of its warships, including IRIS Dena which was sunk by a US submarine off the Sri Lankan coast, for 'port of call', a defence source told TOI on Monday. The acceptance, the source said, was given days before the March 4 torpedo attack on Dena when it was returning from naval exercise in India, **reports Surendra Singh**.

The Iranian request for IRIS Dena, IRIS Lavan and IRIS Bushehr came after the conclusion of the exercise, in which only frigate Dena had participated, the source said. It is not known why the ship went to international waters off the Lanka coast even though the Iranian 'port of call' request was accepted by India.

In Parliament, minister Jaishankar said India stood for maintaining sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states in the region and defended allowing the Iranian ships to dock at an Indian port as the right decision. "Iranian side had requested permission on Feb 28 for three ships in the region to dock at our ports. This was accorded on March 1. IRIS Lavan actually docked on March 4 in Kochi," he said.

Bahrain mission arranges for Indians' return

New Delhi: With the Bahrain airport not seeing any commercial flights since Feb 28, the Indian embassy there has made arrangements for stranded compatriots to return home via Saudi Arabia, **reports Saurabh Sinha**.

"The embassy in Riyadh is obtaining individual transit visa approvals from Saudi. Transit visa requests are being referred by Indian embassy in Bahrain to Indian embassy in Riyadh. Priority is being given to stranded Indian nationals, especially those on tourist or short-term visas," Vinod K Jacob, Indian ambassador to Bahrain, said.

As returning via Saudi is the only viable option for Indians stranded in Bahrain as of now, those applying for Saudi transit visa must fulfil certain pre-conditions, like having a confirmed flight ticket for onward travel to India. Transit visa is valid for 72-96 hours.

ऑयल एण्ड नेचुरल गैस कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) NOTIFICATION

ONGC invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for long Term Rate Contract (RC) for the regular disposal of ferrous (Iron & Steel)/non-ferrous scrap generated at:

- **Nhava Supply Base**
- **Pipavav Supply Base**

The disposal shall be conducted through **e-auction on the platform of MSTC Limited.** Interested vendors may download the full EOI document from the ONGC website at: www.tenders.ongc.co.in > **Expression of Interest.** EOI with required documents should be submitted by **25.03.2026** to disposal_olg@ongc.co.in and psbops_olg@ongc.co.in, ONGC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs without assigning any reason.

For further details, please visit ONGC e-portal: https://tenders.ongc.co.in

सशस्त्र बल चिकित्सा सेवा के नर्सिंग कॉलेज में शामिल हों
बीएससी (नर्सिंग) पाठ्यक्रम - 2026

JOIN COLLEGES OF NURSING UNDER AFMS BSc (NURSING) COURSE - 2026

सशस्त्र बल चिकित्सा सेवा के नर्सिंग कॉलेज में बीएससी नर्सिंग पाठ्यक्रम 2026 के लिए इच्छुक महिला उम्मीदवार का नीट (यूजी) 2026 परीक्षा में सफल होना अनिवार्य है। पात्रता, नियम एवं शर्तों की जानकारी रोजगार समाचार में प्रकाशित की जायेगी। यह सूचना इस वेबसाइट **www.joinindianarmy.nic.in** पर भी उपलब्ध होगी।

Female candidates desirous of seeking admission to BSc (N) 2026 course at Colleges of Nursing under AFMS have to mandatorily qualify NEET (UG) 2026. The Eligibility, Terms and Conditions will be published in the Employment News in due course of time. The same will also be available on the website

www.joinindianarmy.nic.in

CBC 10601/11/0070/2526

PFC CONSULTING LIMITED
(A wholly owned subsidiary of PFC Limited)
Regd. Office: First Floor, "Urjanidhi", 1, Barakhamba Lane, Connaught Place, New Delhi - 110001, (India) Fax: 011-23443990

GLOBAL INVITATION (THROUGH E-BIDDING ONLY)

FOR SELECTION OF TRANSMISSION SERVICE PROVIDER ON BUILD, OWN, OPERATE AND TRANSFER (BOOT) BASIS FOR INTRA-STATE TRANSMISSION PROJECT IN MAHARASTRA

PFC Consulting Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Power Finance Corporation Limited (A Government of India Undertaking), invites proposals for setting up of transmission projects on Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) basis following single stage two envelope process of "Request for Proposal" (RFP).

Interested bidders may refer to the RFP notification and RFP documents available on the website **https://www.mstcecommerce.com** and **https://www.pfcclindia.com**.

The Bidders may obtain the RFP documents on all working days between 10:30 hrs (IST) and 16:00 hrs (IST) **from 11.03.2026 to one working day prior to bid submission for the project mentioned below** on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 5,00,000/- or USD 7,000 plus applicable GST @18% from 9th Floor, Wing-A, Statesman House, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001, Tel.: +91-11-23443996; e-mail: **pfccl.itp@pfcindia.com**. The RFP documents can also be downloaded from **https://www.mstcecommerce.com** and **https://www.pfcclindia.com**, however, in such case, interested party can submit Response to RFP only on submission of non-refundable fee of Rs. 5,00,000/- or USD 7,000 plus applicable GST @18% separately. The survey report and clarification to RFP documents shall be issued to those bidders, who have obtained/ purchased RFP documents by paying requisite fee at least one working day prior to bid submission date. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated regarding clarifications/ amendments/ time extensions etc., if any. The important timelines in this regard are as follows:

S. No.	Name of Transmission Scheme	Last Date for seeking clarifications (dd/mm/yyyy)	Last Date for submission of response to RFP (dd/mm/yyyy)	Date of opening of Response to RFP (dd/mm/yyyy)
1.	**Establishment of 765 kV GIS Pune West (District - Pune)**	30/03/2026	12/05/2026 up to 15:00 hrs (IST)	12/05/2026 at 15:30 hrs (IST)

Note: PFC Consulting Limited reserves the right to cancel or modify the process without assigning any reason and without any liability. This is not an offer.

An Initiative of — Government of Maharashtra
Bid Process Coordinator — PFC CONSULTING LTD. (A wholly owned subsidiary of PFC Ltd.) (A Govt of India Undertaking)
Initiative Partner — State Transmission Utility Maharashtra

HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Regional Office: Unit No.703&704, 7th Floor, North Block, Manipal Centre, No.47, Dickenson Road, Bengaluru - 560 042. Ph: 080-25582602

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

[Appendix - IV-A] [proviso to rule 8 (6) r/w 9(1)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("SARFAESI Act") read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) r/w 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

(1) In connection with the HUDCO Financial Assistance to M/s Duo Hotels and Resorts Private Limited for Take out Finance & Completion works of Hotel Duo Inn at Gandhinaagr Bengaluru (Scheme No. 19421), Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to M/s Duo Hotels and Resorts Private Limited (Borrower) and Shri A.M.Sharath Chandra and Shri T. Phani Mahesh (Guarantors), that the below described / scheduled immovable property are mortgaged to Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO) (secured creditor). the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of HUDCO (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and whatever there is basis on 16.04.2026, for recovery of Rs.1573.40 lakhs (as on 28.02.2026), together with future interest and costs, due to HUDCO (Secured Creditors), from M/s Duo Hotels and Resorts Private Limited (Borrower) and Shri A.M.Sharath Chandra and Shri T. Phani Mahesh (Guarantors),

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of land with building thereon, bearing Land admeasuring 8220 Sq.ft at Site No.134, 6th Cross, Gandhinagar, Bangalore - 560009 along with Commercial building constructed thereon and the same is bounded by :

East by : Private Property,
West by: Private Property,
North by : Property belonging to Khoday Family,
South by :6th Cross, Gandhinagar.
Latitude & Longitude: N:12.9780991, E:77.5771656

Note: (1) Built Up Area as per Sanctioned plan- 2009.34 sq.mt and Built Up Area as per actual construction- 4485.15 sq.mt. (Approximately)

(2) The broad Terms and Conditions of sale to be uploaded on the website of the secured creditor. The Property will be sold on "as is where is, as is what is and whatever there is and without recourse" basis:

Reserve Price for the property	**Rs. 27,40,76,447 /- (Rupees Twenty Seven Crore Forty Lakhs Seventy Six Thousand Four Hundred Forty Seven Only)**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (10% of Reserve Price)	**Rs.2,74,07,645/- (Rupees Two Crore Seventy Four Lakh Seven Thousand Six Hundred Forty Five Only)**
Minimum Bid Increment Value	**Rs. 3,00,000/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Only)**
Inspection of Property	**On 06.04.2026 between 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.**
EMD Remittance	**Till 13.04.2026 - 4.00 p.m.** through RTGS/NEFT transfer to the Credit of HUDCO's account in HDFC Bank, KG Marg branch, New Delhi, Current A/c No.00030350017801, IFSC Code No: HDFC0000003
Last date and time for submission of bid documents	**13.04.2026 at 4.00 p.m.**
Online auction sale	**On 16.04.2026 from 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.,** with auto time-extension of 5 minutes each, till sale is concluded.

For further details of sale visit **https://www.bankeauctions.com** and HUDCO website: **www.hudco.org.in**

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 09.03.2026

Dr GIRISH KARNAD T G.
Joint General Manager (Projects) / Authorised Officer, HUDCO, Bengaluru

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
[South Western Railway (Construction Organization)]
NOTIFICATION
Bengaluru, the 24th February, 2026

S.O. 961(E).- In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-Section (1) of Section 20A of the Railway Act, 1989 (24 of 1989) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which has been given in the Schedule annexed hereto, is required for the execution of the Special Railway Project, namely, "Construction of ROB in lieu of LC No.72 at Km: 164/200-300 (Mulavad Village)" in the State of Karnataka, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land:

Any person interested in the said land may, within Thirty days from the date of publication of this notification in the official Gazette, raise objection and use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (1) of Section 20D of the said Act:

Every such objection shall be made to the competent authority, namely, Incharge Land Acquisition Officer Assistant Commissioner Vijayapur and Regional Commissioner, Belagavi for "Construction of ROB in lieu of LC No. 72 at Km: 164/200-300 (Mulavad Village)" in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the competent authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the competent authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections:

Any order made by the competent authority under sub-section (2) of Section 20D of the said Act shall be final:

The land plans and other details of the land covered under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid Office of the competent authority.

SCHEDULE

Sl.No.	Name of the Village	Survey Nos.	Part	Area in Hectare
1	Mulavad	589	4	0.2125
2	Mulavad	609	-	0.2125
3	Mulavad	610	-	0.0708
4	Mulavad	612	2	0.0405
5	Mulavad	613	3	0.0911
6	Mulavad	613	6	0.0506
7	Mulavad	619	-	0.0911
8	Mulavad	620	-	0.1012
			TOTAL	0.8701

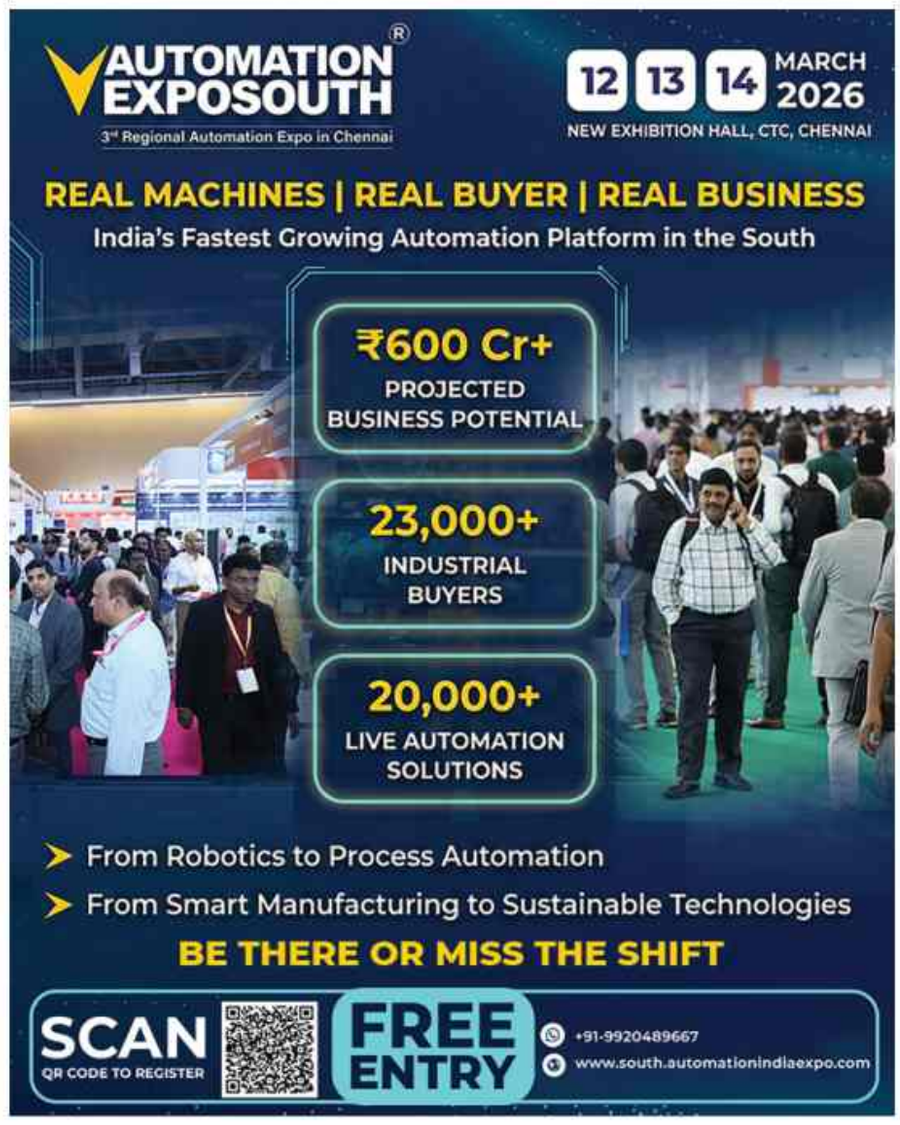
[F. No.W.271/CN/BNC/2025-26/Land SRP/1727]

PARDEEP PURI
Chief Engineer-III/Construction, Bangaluru Cantonment

PUB/967/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.

South Western Railway - SWR · SWRRLY · @sw_railways



PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that my clients propose to purchase the property described in the Schedule hereunder from (1) **Mrs. ZEEBUNDEH KHALEELI**, Also known as **Mrs.ZEEBUNDEH BEGUM WUSOOQ KHALEELI**, Wife of Mr. Wusooq Khaleeli, 17, Proudbank, Millway, Toronto, ON M2L 1P3, CANADA, (2) **Mrs. SABAH BAKHACHE**, Wife of Mr. Antoine Bakhache, 10, Sandham Elsternwick, Melbourne, Victoria 3185, AUSTRALIA, No.1 and 2 presently at No.26/2-1, Sankey Road Cross, Abshot Layout, BENGALURU – 560052 and (3) **Mrs. REHANE YAVAR DHALA**, Also known as **Mrs. REIHANEH YAVAR DHALA**, Wife of Mr. M.Y. Dhala, earlier residing at Villa Noor, No.4/6, Casurina Drive, Neelankarai, CHENNAI – 600 041 and presently residing at No.21, Krishnamma Road, Nungambakkam, CHENNAI – 600 034, who have represented that they are the full and absolute owners of the Schedule Property. Any person or persons objecting for the proposed purchase and any person or persons who are having any right, title, interest or ownership of whatsoever nature or any other right or claim in the Schedule Property including by way of any Development Agreement or any other Agreement or otherwise of any nature shall lodge his/her/their objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within Fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication. Further, claims or alleged interest or objections if any, which are not received within Fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this notice shall be considered to have been consciously waived or abandoned for all intents and purposes and shall no longer be binding. Any objections and/or claims and/or response received thereafter will not be looked into and my clients may proceed to purchase the Schedule Property as if there are no claims/objections.

:SCHEDULE PROPERTY:

15/24th undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in the immovable property bearing Municipal No.81 (initially bearing No.11, thereafter bearing No.22 and thereafter bearing Nos.81 and 82), New E.P.I.D. No.76-19-81, Richmond Road, Richmond Town, New Municipal Ward No.111 - Shanthalanagar, Bangalore-560 025, and the land measuring on the Eastern side 84' 9" + 131' 6" + 120' 3", on the Western side 201' 6" + 114' 6", on the Northern side 31' + 174' + 55', on the Southern side 266' approximately measuring 79,218 Square Feet, and bounded as follows:

East by : Private Properties on Wellington Street;
West by : Private Property and Myrtle Lane;
North by : Richmond Road;
South by : Leonard Lane.

Sri. KUSUMA R. MUNIRAJU,
Advocate,
101, "Eden Park",No.20, Vittal Mallya Road,
Bangalore – 560 001. Tel : 22217971 & 42000249.

Bangalore
Date:05/03/2026

Govt moots central body for each state to curb green nod delay

Standing Body Will Take A Call Till Constitution of State Bodies

Vishwa.Mohan
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: To end unnecessary delay in assessing projects for environmental clearances (EC), the environment ministry has proposed to set up a central body — Standing Committee on Environment Impact Appraisal (SCEIA) — for each state and UT, which will appraise projects when state-level panels are non-functional.

The idea behind the proposal is to ensure continuity in functioning of state-level panels by establishing a separate standing body as an "interim arrangement" for the purpose of appraisal of projects and grant of regulatory environmental clearances. The standing body will function and take a call on green issues only till the constitution of state-level bodies.

In many cases, state-level committees remain non-functional due to expiry of their term or on account of other circumstances.

The ministry had on Mar 5 issued a draft notification that said if the application is not appraised by the state-level committee within a period of 120 days, the application shall be forwarded to the SCEIA for consideration.

No depth waiver for underground coal gasification: Expert panel

New Delhi: The environment ministry's expert panel has declined an exemption to minimum operational depth limit for underground coal gasification (UCG) projects in view of environmental impacts.

Coal gasification is a process that converts coal into synthesis gas, consisting of carbon monoxide and hydrogen. Govt through the process aims at harnessing the country's vast coal reserves efficiently and sustainably.

The coal ministry had sought removal of the condition stipulating a minimum depth of 300 metres for R&D pilot projects, citing examples of other countries, specifically Uzbekistan that operates such projects at a depth of approximately 150–200 meters and has been producing syngas.

The ministry's panel, however, observed that critical parameters governing the environmental safety of UCG vary significantly across coalfields in India and cannot be directly compared with global projects.

"Given the heterogeneity of Indian conditions and variability in hydrogeological and geomechanical settings from region to region, international precedents cannot be treated as directly comparable benchmarks," said the panel. TNN

TMC neta claims CEC snapped at her in meet

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Kolkata: The Election Commission's meeting with political parties in poll-bound West Bengal on Monday saw a heated exchange between Trinamool Congress's **Chandrima Bhattacharya**, who is the state's finance minister, and chief election commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, who allegedly asked her "not to shout".

Barring Trinamool, which stuck to its demand that no genuine Bengal voter should be deprived of voting rights, BJP, Congress and CPM sought a shorter poll duration, with no more than two phases. BJP had earlier advocated for multi-phase polls.

In a press note, EC said: "Political parties urged the commission to conduct the elections in 1 or 2 phases."

After the meeting, Bhattacharya, flanked by Kolkata mayor Firhad Hakim and ex-DGP Rajeev Kumar, said: "I am a woman and he is telling me 'don't shout'. They actually have no respect for women. That is why women's names are also being deleted."

"Whenever we spoke about SIR, they said the matter is in Supreme Court. If you called us, you must listen to what we have to say. Was it wrong for us to go to the Supreme Court? It is our responsibility to protect the people," she said after the meeting.

Asked how many phases of polling was TMC looking at, both Hakim and Bhattacharya avoided a direct reply, saying the meeting was not called for that.

At the meeting with EC, BJP was represented by Jagannath Chattopadhyay, Sishir Bajoria and Tapas Ray. "We demanded free and fair elections. The paramilitary should be properly utilised. A section of Bengal Police officers and the state administration do not want electors to cast their votes freely," Chattopadhyay said.

Smartphones in classrooms

Is a complete ban the way forward?

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Hamlet's existential dilemma — "To be or not to be?" — is finding an echo in Indian schools: To ban or not to ban smartphones in classrooms.

With Himachal Pradesh chief minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu announcing a ban on the use of mobile phones by students in all govt and private schools from March, and his Karnataka counterpart Siddaramaiah in his budget speech on March 6 announcing a ban on social media for under-16 children, concerns over excessive smartphone use and its impact on children's cognitive abilities are back in the spotlight.

These decisions align with a growing global push to curb the use of smartphones in schools amid rising concerns about shrinking attention spans, social media addiction and distraction in classrooms. In the United States, nearly 35 states have enacted laws requiring public schools to restrict or ban the use of mobile phones by students on campus, with exceptions for students with disabilities who have individualised education programmes. Sweden will implement a nationwide mobile phone ban in all schools from Aug to improve security and study conditions for students. The new rule, which will affect children between the ages of seven and 16, will make it compulsory for all schools and after-school clubs to collect students' phones and hold them until the end of the day.

Scan the QR to take a scientific psychological assessment of your digital habits.

In January 2025, Zhengzhou, capital of Henan province, became the first Chinese city to implement a law, prohibiting the use of mobile phones in primary and secondary schools unless specifically needed for teaching purposes.

Restrictions On Access

Instead of imposing a ban on mobile phones for teens, some countries are opting for restrictions on social media. In Dec, Australia became the first country to ban certain social media platforms for teens under the age of 16, while Indonesia announced its decision to ban access to "high-risk" platforms for under-16s from March 28.

France's National Assembly has backed similar plans for children under 15. Poland too is planning to introduce a legislation to prohibit children under the age of 15 from accessing social media, with tech firms directly responsible for age verification.

Calls for such measures have been gathering steam in India too, including in the recent Economic Survey. After Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh govt announced its plan to curb access to social media for under-13s within 90 days and will consider extending the ban to under-16s. Goa also has set up a panel to investigate what such a ban might look like and how it can be implemented.

Rules For Smartphone Use

India is yet to formulate a national policy or a specific law on access to social media apps and smartphone use in educational institutions. However, calls for regulation of smartphone use are growing. The matter reached the Delhi high court last year, but it refused to order a complete ban, calling it impractical and undesirable. Instead, the court issued guidelines for regulating and monitoring use of smartphones.

The reasons for concern are obvious, says Jyoti Arora, principal of Delhi-based Mount Abu School, adding that mobile phones can be great tools for learning, communication, and accessing digital resources, but distraction remains a concern. "Almost every day, our office is flooded with several parents complaining about games, social media, and constant notifications diverting the attention of their children from studies. Many of them have started complaining about eye strain and poor posture," Arora says.

Academic Performance

She linked excessive use of smartphones to a decline in student academic performance. "We also saw a decline in students' academic performance if they were too glued to the screen. An even bigger concern is that of exposure to cyber risks, such as online bullying and access to inappropriate content."

A 2023 Unesco report* showed that mere proximity to a mobile device distracted students and led to a negative impact on learning in 14 countries. It cited research studies to point out that "banning mobile phones from schools improves academic performance, especially for low-performing students."

Finding Workarounds

Ameeta Mulla Wattal, chairperson of DLF Foundation Schools and Scholarship Programmes, says the word 'ban' has never really helped anybody, particularly in school systems. "Anything oppressive is not right, especially for teenagers. The learning ecosystem has become so tech-integrated that even in a classroom, platforms like Whats-App, Instagram, and games are all accessible. Students are very adept at finding workarounds," she says. The Covid-19 pandemic, which saw education systems across the world shift online, deepened this integration, with everything from classes to parent-teacher meetings being conducted remotely.

Wattal, who is also the former long-term principal of Delhi's Springdales School, says the real issue isn't the device, but teaching responsible digital use and focus. "There are so many WhatsApp groups that teachers use to share resources, homework, and foster discussions. The parent community is all on WhatsApp groups too, receiving notices and updates from school. Many students come by other means of transport or go for private coaching afterwards. A phone, therefore, becomes crucial for communication," she adds.

Need For A Holistic Approach

Finding a middle path is the need of the hour, Wattal emphasises, a process that would require dialogue among teachers, parents, and students.

A team of researchers from the University of Birmingham drew a similar conclusion in a Feb 2025 study** of 1,227 students across the UK. Bans in isolation, the study argued, are not enough to tackle the negative impact, and it called for a more holistic approach to lowering phone use among students.

Some schools in India are using lockers or sealed pouches to keep phones away from students during lessons, while others require formal requests to be submitted for exceptional cases. Arora says her school does not allow students to bring mobile phones, except on the specific written request of parents, in case they need to use the phone after school hours.

Students deposit their phones in the morning and take them when they leave. However, allowing students to use smartphones during school hours is unlikely any time soon. "We need to have more talks, discussions, and digital ethics workshops before we allow that. We are doing our bit by inviting specialists to discuss cyber threats, or even the need for digital detox," she adds.

The Delhi high court ruling in March had also pointed out that schools must educate students on responsible online behaviour, digital manners, and the ethical use of smartphones. Students should be counselled that high levels of screen time and social media engagement can lead to anxiety, diminished attention spans, and cyberbullying, the court had added.

However, schools are only a part of the equation, Arora emphasises. "The lessons for responsible use of phones and digital ethics must also be taught at home, with parents shouldering equal responsibility as the teachers."

*Unesco study: Technology in education: https://www.unesco.org/gem-report/en/publication/technology

**UK study: School bans alone not enough to tackle negative impacts of phone and social media use: https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/2025/school-bans-alone-not-enough-to-tackle-negative-impacts-of-phone-and-social-media-use

BAN: THE WORLDVIEW

- **United States:** Regulations ban or limit access to smartphones in school classrooms in over 35 states
- **Sweden:** No access to smartphones for schoolchildren between 7 and 16 years from August
- **Zhengzhou, capital of China's Henan province:** No access to smartphones in primary and secondary schools
- **India: Himachal** imposes ban on use of smartphones in schools from March

Restrictions On Social Media

- **Australia:** First country to impose a ban on social media for under-16s in Dec 2025
- **Indonesia:** Ban on access to 'high-risk' platforms for under-16s from March 28
- **France, Poland, Spain, Slovenia, UK, Denmark, Malaysia, Norway, Ireland, New Zealand, Czech Republic, Greece:** Mulling bans or restrictions
- Age verification required: **Brazil, Vietnam**
- In **India, Karnataka** is first state to announce a ban on social media for under-16s

Andhra Pradesh: Plans to ban access to social media for under-13s in 90 days. Will consider increasing age limit to under-16s.
Goa: Mulling a ban on social media for under-16s

Special test to assess digital stress for TOI drive

Times News Network

The Times of India's 'Let's D-Stress' campaign aims to initiate a nationwide conversation around digital stress, its consequences, and practical ways to address it. The objective of the initiative is to turn awareness of digital behaviour into action, leveraging science and technology to help individuals reclaim attention, productivity, and mental well-being in an increasingly distracted digital world.

The initiative was launched in collaboration with Kochi-based Centre of Excellence in Neurodegeneration and Brain Health (CENABH) as knowledge partner along with IIT Delhi and NIMHANS as solutions partners.

CENABH has expanded its focus from laboratory research on neuroscience to large-scale public-centric health initiatives. In Oct 2021, the centre helped develop Kochi into India's first dementia-friendly city. The initiative demonstrated how advanced research can be applied to create healthier and more inclusive communities, highlighting a fundamental shift towards compassionate, community-based care for those living with neurodegenerative conditions. The centre also helped launch the 'Udbodh' project, designed by the Centre for Neuroscience at Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), to create a supportive ecosystem for an ageing population.

Self-Assessment Tool

As part of the **TOI** campaign, a simplified web-based assessment tool, linked through a QR code, will allow readers to gain an initial understanding of their digital behaviour and focus levels.

The results are intended to promote awareness of everyday technology use and encourage individuals to make gradual, practical adjustments that support improved focus, rest, and overall cognitive wellbeing. The assessment tool is derived from the scientific framework used for the Mentacy app, rooted in neuroscientific research and behavioural insights, and developed along with a technology partner by CENABH in a two-year collaboration.

The scientific framework behind the assessment tool was developed by a multidisciplinary team led by Dr Baby Chakrapani P S, CENABH director and honorary director of the Centre for Neuroscience at CUSAT, and Dr Lima Raj, psychologist and project head for social neuroscience at CENABH.

KN Panikkar, historian of ideas, passes away

Avijit Ghosh & BS Anil Kumar | TNN

Noted Leftist historian K N Panikkar, who critiqued colonial historiography's simplistic view of culture and highlighted how indigenous intellectuals offered an alternative paradigm of modernity, passed away at a private hospital in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday. He would have turned 90 next month.

Panikkar, affectionately called KN by his colleagues, belonged to a select group of historians such as Bipan Chandra, Sabyasachi Bhattacharya and S Gopal who created a strong department of modern Indian history at JNU's Centre for Historical Studies.

His course on the history of ideas in India in the 19th century was pioneering. "Panikkar taught it at a time when history writing was dominated by economic and political concerns. He endeavoured, through his research, to claim a position of centrality for culture as an important ingredient both in human action and large political movements," says modern India historian Salil Misra.

Historian Rakesh Batabyal adds that Panikkar brought to attention how the ideas of Akshay Kumar Dutt, Lokahitawadi and other 19th century intellectuals needed no western validation: they were modern in their own right, and gave us a sense of the new world opening before us. "When he discussed the tradition of knowledge in Ayurveda, we began to understand the complexities of the

1936-2026

Indian knowledge processes under colonialism," he says.

Modern India historian Aditya Mukherjee was both student and colleague of Panikkar. "He acquired the reputation of a great teacher when he taught in a college in Delhi University, and was invited to join JNU in 1972. He was a brilliant teacher who taught us social and religious reforms in the 19th century, making the subject come alive even to students like me who had no background in history, having graduated in economics," says Mukherjee.

Born in Guruvayoor, Panikkar left Kerala after completing his undergraduate studies and went on to earn his Master's degree and doctorate from Rajasthan University, where he later married his college mate, (late) Usha Bhargava. He was also the founding vice-chancellor of Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady.

The historian's books include, "Against Lord and State: Religion and Peasant Uprising in Malabar".

"His role in presenting the Malabar rebellion in its true historical context and highlighting its aspects as a freedom struggle, agrarian revolt and anti-imperialist movement is of historical significance", noted Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan in his condolence message.

"He was a proud Marxist yet he engaged with questions perceived as outside the mainstream of Marxist ideology, as seen in his important essay 'Culture and Consciousness in Modern India," says R Mahalakshmi, eminent historian of South India. Historian M G Sashibhooshan endorses the view. "I remember Panikkar accepting my request to present a paper on Pattanam at the History Congress, despite knowing that my opinion on Pattanam (Muziris) was different from that of Marxist historians".

Panikkar was also a founding member of Anhad, an NGO working to promote communal harmony.

Does SC have nothing to do except Bengal SIR, asks CJI

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New Delhi: Days after it criticised the West Bengal govt for frequently rushing to SC with 'vague and irrelevant' reasons to delay the ongoing SIR of the state's electoral rolls, petitions by persons complaining against deletion of their names from voter lists saw the court finding itself facing the same issue, leading an exasperated bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi to ask, "Does SC have nothing except WB SIR to hear?"

Appearing for the petitioners, advocate Menka Guruswamy told the bench that there is no appeal provision against the deletion of names from voter lists which has left many remediless.

For scrutinising documents submitted by 50 lakh voters under the 'logical discrepancy' and 'unmapped' categories, SC had ordered deployment of judicial officers of the poll-bound Bengal as well as Jharkhand and Odisha to expedite the SIR process.

Guruswamy said requisite documents were submitted by the petitioners and yet their claims have been rejected. "Their names had figured in the previous voter lists and they had voted," she said.

Infiltrators' issue moves to front burner

Times News Network

New Delhi: From states as afar as Bihar and Uttarakhand, home minister **Amit Shah** is leading BJP's push to put the issue of infiltrators on the front burner with an eye on not only the upcoming assembly elections, especially in West Bengal and Assam where it has a certain resonance, but also on shaping the national agenda by coopting a core party plank into its central theme.

Shah, who has long championed national security and demography concerns over the alleged influx of infiltrators from Bangladesh, recently stepped up his efforts by camping for three days in Bihar's Seemanchal region, an area bordering the eastern neighbour, and then sending out a stern message from Uttarakhand last week.

He chose the launch of several development initiatives in Haridwar to underscore the Modi govt's determination over the issue. "From Kedarnath to Kanyakumari wherever infiltrators are present across the country, we will identify and remove each and every infiltrator from India," he said, accusing opposition parties of trying to shield them as they see their vote bank in them.

BJP has framed its strong backing to the EC's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls — which has in turn drawn protests from the opposition for its alleged intent to benefit the governing party — around its potential to identify and delete illegal voters, a large section of whom are likely to be illegals.

More than any other state, SIR has become a political flashpoint between the Mamata Banerjee govt in poll-bound West Bengal and BJP, leading to frequent interventions from Supreme Court.

BJP has cited "unnatural" surge in Muslim voters in different parts of the state, which borders Bangladesh, to back its claim of the presence of infiltrators in large numbers.

With SC giving a go ahead to SIR while offering some directives, TMC has nuanced its opposition but questioned the process and accused EC of working with BJP to target voters unsympathetic to the national party.

Ex-IAS officer in SC: Let me be probed in all cases together

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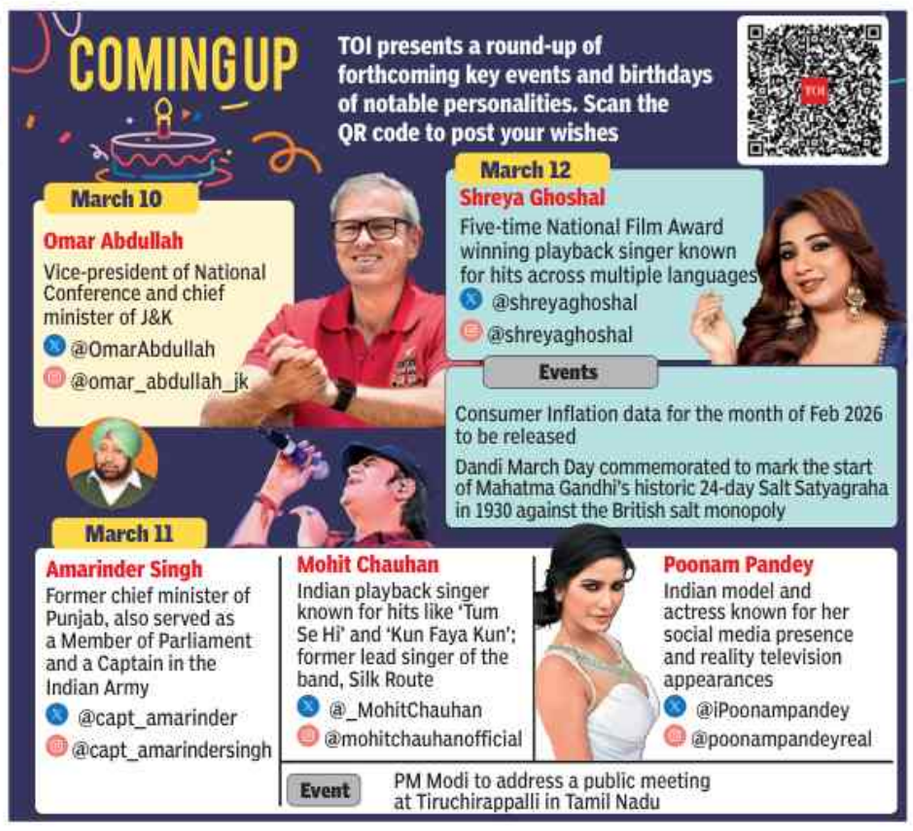
New Delhi: Ex-IAS officer Anil Tuteja, a powerful bureaucrat in then Bhupesh Baghel-led Congress govt who is an accused in five major scams, on Monday requested Supreme Court to direct the investigating agencies to interrogate him continuously in all cases and then allow him to get bail till completion of the trials. He told SC that the investigating agencies are arresting him in a different case when he is closer to getting bail in one case.



Delhi high court flags 'erroneous' trial court observations

▶ Continued from page 1

Justice Sharma said she is "of the opinion that certain factual discrepancies pointed out in the impugned order, the observations made by the trial court regarding statements of the witnesses and the approvers, at the stage of charge itself, prima facie appear erroneous, and need consideration when viewed in the background of well-settled law on charge and conspiracy, as to whether such observations could have been made at the stage of charge itself."

The HC has also summoned the trial-court records of the case and postponed the ED-linked money-laundering case pending before the same trial court.

Posting the CBI's plea for further hearing on March 16, Justice Sharma pointed out that, despite advance notice, none of the 23 persons (or their lawyers) appeared.

On the strictures passed by the special judge against CBI's lead investigator, the high court observed that "...the reasons given for passing such remarks including, concluding that the investigating officer has abused his official position to conduct unfair investigation, are prima facie foundationally misconceived, especially when made at the stage of charge itself."

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the CBI, argued that since all the accused persons were discharged and observations were also made with regard to the case filed by ED, the HC should ensure that the case filed under the provisions of PMLA, 2002 was not affected by virtue of this order.

Sharjeel gets interim bail to attend brother's wedding

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New Delhi: A Delhi court on Monday granted 10 days of interim bail to **Sharjeel Imam**, who is an accused in the 2020 Delhi riots case, to attend his brother's wedding.

Additional sessions judge Sameer Bajpai granted the relief from March 20-30. He has to furnish a personal bond of Rs 50,000 with two sureties and comply with certain conditions. The relief has come months after Supreme Court in Jan refused to grant bail to Imam and co-accused Umar Khalid in the Delhi riots conspiracy case.

Imam, in jail since Jan 2020, was booked in several cases related to protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC). He has secured bail in other matters, but remains incarcerated in the Delhi riots conspiracy case, in which police invoked the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

India assures adequate oil and gas supplies

▶ Continued from page 1

The Indian basket was on the verge of hitting $100 a barrel after having reached $99.12 on Friday, almost 40% higher than the Feb 27 level of $71.19. Since Feb 28, when the US and Israel bombed Iran, global benchmark Brent has surged as much as 65%.

The statement came amid reports that Saudi Aramco had begun reducing production from two of its fields, joining Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE, as they ran out of storage due to blocked shipments.

Govt officials, however, reiterated that India had sufficient stock of oil and gas to meet domestic requirements. They also sought to dispel rumours of a scarcity of fuel and dismissed reports of shortages anywhere in the country. Officials also maintained that there were adequate stocks of Aviation Turbine Fuel. "India is also a producer and exporter of ATF; there is no need to worry about aviation fuel supplies," said one of them.

The disruptions have prompted govts to initiate emergency action. For instance, Japan, which imports around 95% of its oil from West Asia, has instructed a national oil reserve storage site to prepare for a possible crude release, while China has asked refiners to halt fuel exports.

South Korea has capped prices for the first time in 30 years, while Vietnam removed import tariffs on fuels. Bangladesh has shut universities to conserve fuel.

Oppn set to file removal notice against CEC

New Delhi: The joint opposition is likely to move a notice for the removal of chief election commissioner Gyanesh Kumar soon after Lok Sabha disposes off the "removal notice" against Speaker Om Birla, latest by Wednesday. The notice against the CEC may be moved in Rajya Sabha.

Sources said TMC raised the demand in the strategy session of the opposition INDIA bloc held in Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's office Monday. TNN

Is W Asia conflict fallout not important, asks Rahul

Never Seen Such An Irresponsible Oppn, Says Rijiju

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

PTI

Opposition protests in Lok Sabha demanding discussion on West Asia crisis during the second part of Budget session of Parliament on Monday

New Delhi: The washout of proceedings on the day Parliament met after recess triggered a political slugfest, with the govt accusing the opposition of being irresponsible, while the latter said it was raising issues affecting people due to the ongoing West Asia conflict.

The opposition's demand for a discussion on the West Asia situation led to an impasse, as it refused to move its resolution for removal of LS Speaker Om Birla.

Congress sources suggested that the discussion is likely to begin on Tuesday given that they wanted to highlight the likely impact of the West Asia crisis on India on the first day of Parliament in the Budget session's second half.

Amid an impasse in the House, leader of opposition Rahul Gandhi told reporters that the motion against Birla can be taken up after a discussion on the West Asia situation.

"Why do you think the West Asia issue is not important? Are fuel prices and economic devastation not important? These are people's issues we consider important, and therefore we want to discuss them," he said, persisting with his "compromised" barb at PM Modi over govt's refusal for a discussion.

As chaotic scenes emerged in the House, parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijiju lashed out at Congress, saying he had never seen such an irresponsible opposition party in his life. "Is one man, one family king of this country? There is Constitution in this country, and the House has its own rules," he said in a clear swipe at Rahul. "The opposition signed a motion to remove the speaker and demanded a debate in Parliament. We are ready, but they now want discussion on another issue," he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client intends to purchase all that piece and parcel of property bearing **New Municipal No. 28 (Old Nos. 1/B, 28 and 28/1)**, **PID No. 76-28-28**, together with residential building known as **'Embassy Casabella'**, having super built-up area of **7000 square feet** constructed thereupon, situated at **Ward No. 111-Shanthala Nagar, Kasturba Road Cross**, measuring approximately **6667.95 square feet** along with **317.68 square feet (38%) undivided right in the common passageway** more fully described in the schedule below (**'Schedule Property'**), from (i) **Leena Singh** (ii) **Nitu Singh** and (iii) **Geetinder Malhan** all daughters of late Bir Mohan Singh (**'Owners'**).

The Owners have represented that they are the absolute owners of the Schedule Property & that the Schedule Property is not the subject matter of any subsisting & valid mortgages, lien or charges in favour of anyone & that there are no litigations disposed/pending &/or any subsisting & valid agreements for sale or the like executed by the Owners in respect of the Schedule Property.

If any person/s have any manner of right to, interest in or claim against the Schedule Property including but not limited to any encumbrance thereon by way of a charge, mortgage or lien or being a party to any Agreement for Sale or the like or any Litigations in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof, may, within **15 (fifteen) days** hereof submit to us such claim together with documentary proof in support thereof, failing which, it shall be presumed that there are no encumbrances, charges or lien or any valid & subsisting Agreements for Sale or the like or any Litigations, or any other claim, right, title or interest in respect of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of property bearing **New Municipal No. 28 (Old Nos. 1/B, 28 and 28/1)**, **PID No. 76-28-28**, together with residential building known as **'Embassy Casabella'**, having super built-up area of 7000 square feet constructed thereupon, situated at Ward No. 111-Shanthala Nagar, Kasturba Road Cross, measuring approximately 6667.95 square feet along with 317.68 square feet (38%) undivided right in the common passageway, and bounded on:- **East by :** Compound of Old Central Hotel belonging to M/s Srinivasacharlu and others ; **West by :** Common passageway; **North by :** Property bearing No. 28/1; **South by :** Property bearing No. 29 & Kasturba Road Cross.

Smitha. R.B (Advocate)
KING & PARTRIDGE, Advocates,
No. 48, Lavelle Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.
Ph. No. 080 22212341 / 42
BENGALURU, DATE : 9th March 2026

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED E-TENDER NOTICE

O/o the Chief Engineer, (Project Execution & Buildings),South, Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram.
E-Tender ID No.2026_KSEB_841541_1
PAC:Rs. Rs.1,51,82,145/- Last Date:18.03.2026, 03.00 pm
E-Tender ID No.2026_KSEB_841990_1
PAC:Rs. Rs.1,47,62,313/- Last Date: 21.03.2026, 03.00 pm
O/o. the Chief Engineer, (Transmission System Operation), Kalamassery, Ernakulam.
E-Tender ID No.2026_KSEB_843819_1
PAC:Rs. Rs.4,17,25,500/- Last Date: 24.03.2026, 03.00 pm
O/o the Chief Engineer, (S.C.M) & C.S.C, Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram.
E-Tender ID No.2026_KSEB_845392_1
PAC:Rs. Rs.2,46,88,100/- Last Date: 31.03.2026, 03.00 pm
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in Ref : PR/MC1/E607-E-tender/2026

MSME TECHNOLOGY CENTRE
MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, GOVT. OF INDIA

GENERATIVE AI FOR BUSINESS AUTOMATION

Course Duration 2 Days (ONLINE) Date: 14 & 15 March 2026 Time : 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Course Content: Basic Understanding of Gen AI, **Fundamentals of Business Automation, How to Select Tools for Automation**, Marketing Process Automation, Sales Process Automation, HR and Team Management, Finance and Billing, Operations and Project Management, **Business Reporting and Dashboards, and Customer Support Process, How to Make AI Agents and Chatbots for any task.** More

Fees : Rs.3,540/- (Study material in soft copy shall be provided)
Coordinator: 9818676612, 9818528498, 9686564246
Government of India certificate will be awarded

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Vacancy

Applications are invited for 15 contractual position for the Naval Architects in the Directorate General of Shipping, Govt. of India, 9th Floor Beta Building, I-Think Techno Campus, Kanjurmarg (East), Mumbai - 400 042. The eligibility, educational Qualification, Work Experience, and format for submission of application etc may be seen in the detailed advertisement placed at the DG Shipping website: www.dgshipping.gov.in. The last date for receipt of application is 21 days from publication of this advertisement. The engagement are across different location across India namely Kandla, Mumbai, Chennai, Kochi, Visakhapatnam, Paradip, Kolkata

Sr. No.	Description	Renumeration	Educational Qualification
1.	Naval Architects Category 2 5 or 5+ years of experience in shipbuilding, ship repair, maritime engineering, or related maritime industry roles	INR 2,00,000/ month	• Bachelor's degree (B.Tech / B.E) in Naval Architecture, from a recognized university/ institution with minimum 60% marks. • Postgraduate qualification in Naval Architecture is highly desirable
2	Naval Architects Category 1 1-4 years of experience in shipbuilding, ship repair, maritime engineering, or related maritime industry roles	INR 1,20,000/ month	• Bachelor's degree (B.Tech / B.E) in Naval Architecture, from a recognized university/ institution with minimum 60% marks. • Current enrollment or completion of postgraduate studies in Naval Architecture (desirable)

The corrigendum/ Addendum, if any, will be uploaded on the DGS website only.

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.
Suratgarh Super Thermal Power Station, Suratgarh-335805

E-Tender Notice: TN-2150(RVU2526GLOB02505)

Online tenders are invited for Design, Engineering, Supply, Retrofitting, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of DCS & HMI System for replacement of the existing 5G-TG control system installed at 250 MW, U#2 of STPS, Suratgarh. Tender details are available on websites **http//eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** for e-tender), **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl & www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.**

Raj.Samwad/C/25/22032 RVUN/PR-4363 Dy. Chief Engineer (Proc.)

Bangalore-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Area Planning Authority
No. 5, Second Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560009. Tel: 080-22341230/35,
E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No:BMICAPA/CLU-03/103/2025-26/2788 Date: 07-03-2026

PUBLICATION
(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

M/s. EMINENCE VENTURES Respresented by its Managing Partner Mr. Akif Ahad S/o Mukthar Ahamed has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture"** Zone to **"Residential"** purpose pertaining to Sy.No.138/2 extent of 01Acre-01Guntas (Including 0Acre-02Gutas 'A' Kharab), Sy.No.138/6 extent of 0Acre-38Guntas and Sy.No.138/7 extent of 0Acre-38Guntas totally measuring 02Acre-37Guntas of Hampapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Srirangapatna Taluk, Mandya District under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961.The foresaid lands are reserved for **Agriculture zone** in approved Master plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following.

(1) If this land is developed and layout formed, sites will be available at reasonable rates to General Public. (2) If this land is developed Job opportunities will be available to all sector of labourers. (3) If this land is developed, then the surrounding area will also get developed. (4) If the development of layout takes place, the public are benefited with the civic amenities such as good roads, UGD, electrical facilities and parks etc.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary,
DIPR/CP/RO6094/AAPL/2025-26 **B.M.I.C.A.P.A., Bangalore**

IFSCA

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES CENTRES AUTHORITY

2nd and 3rd Floor, Pragya Tower, GIFT City, Gandhinagar Gujarat

File No.73/IFSCA/ Consultants/2020-21 March 03, 2026

VACANCY NOTIFICATION

International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), a statutory unified regulatory body under the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, invites applications from eligible Indian citizens for filling up various positions of Young Professional and Senior Consultant on contract basis. The place of posting is GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

2. The candidates willing to apply are requested to refer www.ifsca.gov.in/career for detailed vacancy notification. The last date for receipt of application along with requisite documents by post is 23.03.2026 by 6.00 PM.

General Manager
Dept. of General Administration

CBC 15228/12/0007/2526

ANDHRA PRADESH MEDICAL SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
2nd Floor, Plot No.9, Survey No.49, IT Park, Mangalagiri - 522 503
email: aphmhidc@gmail.com & ed.apmsidc16@gmail.com

Tender Notice No.13/APMSIDC/2025-26 Dated: 07.03.2026

APMSIDC invites tenders through e-procurement platform https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in for

1.Procurement and supply of HB strips, equipment & furniture to various Hospitals under NHM funds in A.P.
2.Procurement and supply of equipment & furniture to various Hospitals under PG Seats in A.P.
3. Procurement and supply of equipment, Furniture to Critical Care Blocks and IPHLs under PMABHIM.
4. Procurement and supply of equipment & furniture to various Hospitals under Various Funds (CSR, MPLADS, etc..)
5. Procurement and supply of Bus, equipment & furniture to various Hospitals under DME Hospitals.
6.Identification service provider for Operation and Maintenance of Hearse Van Services (Mahaprasthanam) vehicles in A.P.
7. Procurement and supply of Hospital furniture to various Hospitals in A.P.

For detailed notification and further details please visit the web site **https://apmsidc.ap.nic.in & www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in.**

APMSIDC will reserve the right to cancel the tenders at any time without assigning any reasons.

DIPR No.4895PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-26 Dt.09/03/2026 Sd/- for **Managing Director**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EIGHTH CENTRAL PAY COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE

Government of India have constituted the Eighth Central Pay Commission vide Resolution dated 3rd November, 2025. The terms of reference of the Commission are available at its website **(8cpc.gov.in).**

2. The Commission invites Memorandum/ Representations from Associations/Unions of serving employees/pensioners, interested organizations/institutions and interested individuals in accordance with the Terms of Reference through **an online structured format as** available at **8cpc.gov.in** or **MyGov.in** portal **(innovateindia.mygov.in).** It is requested that all submissions be made through this portal only. Hard copies/physical copies/emails/pdfs of the memorandum/ representations may not be considered by the Commission.
3. Memorandum/Representations/Submissions shall be accepted upto **30th April, 2026.**

Manish Kumar
Director
Eighth Central Pay Commission

CBC 15116/11/0001/2526

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU CENTRE FOR ADVANCED SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
(An Autonomous Institute under Dept. of Science & Technology, Govt. of India and an Institution Deemed-to-be University)
जक्कुर पोस्ट, बेंगलूरु - 560064, भारत/ Jakkur Post, Bengaluru - 560064, INDIA

Advertisement No- JNC/AO/No.02/2026 10 March 2026

A **New Flagship Academic Programme Integrated B.S(Research)-Ph.D** in interdisciplinary sciences commencing AY 2026–27. Designed for high-impact training through rigorous coursework, advanced research exposure and skill development aligning with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Eligibility: B.Sc. (3-year)/equivalent or 120 credits in undergraduate programme with minimum 55% marks*. After one year, eligible students shall receive **Bachelor of Science (Research)** with options to exit or continue for **Ph.D** with a suitable fellowship or one year **M.S(Res.)**.

Other programmes*: Ph.D/M.Sc.(Engg.), M.Sc. and PG Diploma

***Details & online application:**
www.jncasr.ac.in/admission/degree-programmes

Last date: 10.04.2026

Sd/-
Deputy Controller of Examinations

4001/54/2526

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ଶକ୍ତି ସଂଚାରଣ ନିଗମ ଲିଃ
(ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଏକ ଉପକ୍ରମ)

ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)

Regd. Office: Optcl Tech Tower, Janpath, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007

ADVT. No.MPP&R- 08/2025-26 Dated: 04.02.2026

RECRUITMENT FOR VARIOUS POSTS IN OPTCL

Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL), a State owned Power Utility in Odisha is engaged in the business of Transmission of electricity with a vision to emerge as one of the leading power utilities in the country in Transmission space. OPTCL is looking for promising, energetic & young professionals in various disciplines with bright academic record to be inducted as Trainees. As per guidelines framed by Government of Odisha, Knowledge of Odia Language is essential. The vacancies are as follows:

SL. NO.	NAME OF THE POSTS	SC	ST	SEBC	UR	TOTAL
1	Management Trainee (Civil) - MT (Civil)	1	1	-	3 (W:2)	5 (W:2)
2	Management Trainee (Law) - MT (Law)	-	1	-	2 (W:1)	3 (W:1)
3	Junior Management Trainee (Civil) - JMT (Civil)	-	1	-	3 (W:1)	4 (W:1)
4	Office Assistant Grade - III Trainee	6 (W:2)	9 (W:3)	4 (W:1)	19 (W:7)	38 (W:13)

This advertisement is indicative in nature. The detailed notification containing eligibility conditions, educational qualifications, pay scale, remuneration and other relevant details will be published in OPTCL website **www.optcl.co.in**.

HIPR-79/2025-26 **Sd/-**
General Manager (HRD)

/optcl.odisha /optcl_odisha

OIPR-4001/4011/1/25-26/0001

BENGALURU SMART INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED
Office of the Chief Engineer -02
Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited
No.30/1, Thimmaiah Road, Miller Tank Band Area,
Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru - 560051

No: B-SMILE/CE-02/TEND/13/2025-26 Date: 09-03-2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
(Competitive Bidding under KW-4 Two Cover System)

The Government of Karnataka has Constituted "Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited" (B-SMILE) for implementation of Specific, Infrastructure works in the city of Bengaluru. On behalf of the Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE). The Chief Engineer-02, Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE)invites tenders from eligible contractors registered with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the development of work under KW-4 (Two Cover System).The details of the work are as under.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Comprehensive development of "Outer Ring Road from Silk Board Junction to K. R. Puram Metro Station to Global standards Package 1 : Silk Board Junction to Iblur Junction (Length 5.44km) **Amount put to Tender (Excluding GST) : ₹.81.67 Crores, EMD: 82.00 Lakhs** (₹.**1 Lakh** e-Payment & Balance ₹.**81.00 lakhs** through Surety Bond E-BG)
2.	Comprehensive development of "Outer Ring Road from Silk Board Junction to K.R. Puram Metro Station to Global standards Package 2 : Iblur Junction to KR Puram Metro Station (Length 11.57km) **Amount put to Tender (Excluding GST) : ₹.184.49 Crores, EMD: 184.50.00 Lakhs** (₹.**1 Lakh** e-Payment & Balance ₹.**174.50 lakhs** through Surety Bond E-BG)

Calendar of Events : (1) Date and time for Availability of Tender Documents in KPP Portal: **10-03-2026** at **5:30** pm onwards (2) Last date for submission of pre-bid queries: **16-03-2026** upto **1:00** pm (3) Date and time of Pre-bid meeting under the Chairmanship of Director (Technical), B-SMILE: **16-03-2026** at **3.00** pm at O/o Director (Tech), B-SMILE, N R Square, Bengaluru-560002. (4) Authority response to Queries latest by **23-03-2026** at **4:00**pm (5) Last Date and time for Receipt of Tenders on **01-04-2026 at 4:00** pm. (6) Date and time for Opening of Technical Bids is **02-04-2026** at **4:00** pm. (7)Declaration of Eligible / Qualified Bidders Will be Notified (8) Opening of Financial Bids will be Notified.

Sd/- Chief Engineer-02
Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE)

A thought for today

I think we all have empathy. We may not have enough courage to display it

MAYA ANGELOU

Mood Management

Rising oil prices are a challenge for economy, but sliding consumer sentiment can be a risk

On Feb 27, a day before Iran war started, Sensex closed at 81,287. Yesterday, it fell to 77,566, a drop of about 4.5%. It's not the worst drop of this war. Kospi's down almost 16% in the same time, including a 6% drop yesterday. Nikkei has also fallen 10.5% overall – 5.2% yesterday. All markets are on edge because Strait of Hormuz is closed. Goods for sale can't go in, and oil and gas can't come out. But specifics vary. In Korea, for example, unavailability of Qatari helium, which is needed for making memory chips, has spooked investors.

Indian markets have weathered the storm well, relatively. But that could change if war drags on for a few more weeks. First up, rising energy costs will affect everything from transport to manufacturing. Then, if RBI hikes rates to contain inflation, investment and consumer demand will slow down. So, foreign investors will be keenly watching India amid this uncertainty. Should they panic, markets might fall sharply, leaving ordinary domestic investors – those who have seen indices rise SIP by SIP – feeling poorer. And that would be bad for growth.

While India's economy has many pillars, private consumption expenditure – covering everything from pens to shirts, cars, school fees and travel – is the stoutest. This year, it's expected to make up 61.5% of GDP – its highest share in 15 years. Three things made this surge possible – income tax rebates, GST cuts, and slowing inflation. All of these together left consumers feeling richer. I-T rebate put more money in their hands, GST cuts made things cheaper, and low inflation – 2.7% in Jan – removed an invisible tax. But if inflation shoots up in a few weeks due to sustained high energy prices, that invisible tax will start biting again. And if markets tank at the same time, the psychological effect of seeing their portfolios shrink will make consumers tight-fisted. It happens everywhere and is known as 'wealth effect'.

There's little India can do to shorten this war, beyond advising restraint to both sides. But keeping up sentiment within the country is doable and necessary. To ensure that people don't slip into a crisis mood, shortages and price hikes must be avoided. Banks collapse not because they don't have funds, but because panic leads to a run. It's the same with sentiment – so don't let panic set in. That requires proactive, not reactive, messaging. India's fundamentals are strong, Iran war will end, and oil and gas supplies resume. We just have to keep the faith.

Who Bleeds, Who Reads

Have we become desensitised to the horrors of war, or just powerless to prevent them?

One of the most affecting images to have come out of the war in Iran, gives a bird's eye view of excavators and workmen digging graves. It was taken after a missile attack on a girls' school, which killed 168 young pupils, mostly between the ages of 7-12. "The killing of a single child should stop us cold," Unicef global spokesperson James Elder has said. But it doesn't. The killing of 168 doesn't. Have we become desensitised to the horrors of war? Or, habituated?

Some experts blame it all on 'infobesity'. Their theory is that the relentless volume of social media, emails, news we engage with today, has broken our empathy. This makes sense. The one caveat is that human beings have never, ever had limitless empathy. Modernity's promise was that it would not be down to the individual. That structures, systems, processes would keep the peace. Obviously, they have failed. Worse, they are in decline. Even 'compassion fatigue', therefore, is not a heartless thing. Many who really care about what's been happening in Gaza, are plumb worn out by nothing improving on that front. The idea that if enough people responded with horror and disgust to the brutalities of war, it would stop, has had its wins. But these are outnumbered by defeats.

Often, sustained coverage of conflict itself shifts the baseline of 'normal'. 'Civilians were killed' – hides who killed them. 'The village was bombed' – conceals the bomber. Even graphic images can suckle voyeurs more than any anti-war movement. Yes, the ideal response to being confronted with war's violence, would be greater opposition, pressure on govts, moral seriousness. But this needs sustained, difficult, historically informed thinking, about why a war is happening and who is benefitting. It needs better politics. It's delusional to think that by consuming superficial headlines on atrocities, we will change anything.

The Illusionists

Notes on the VIP varnish of a neighbourhood

Anupam Srivastava

The first suspicion was aroused when there was a convergence of painters and cleaners, with plenty of govt cars on their heels. Soon, it was confirmed that the CM would visit.

Still, there was doubt. Because the residents had begun to believe that their neighbourhood had fallen out of the authorities' jurisdiction. For instance, why had the horrific bump in the approach road existed for so long? And the unmarked speed-breakers that sent vehicles flying, dirty water in taps, electricity that went out with the first gust of wind? Then, the open sewers, cavernous drains with missing slabs, and the perennial companionship of mosquitoes? Was the CM coming over to take stock of the situation, in the wake of recent accidents and deaths caused by negligence?

Maybe the residents' complaints list had magically got into the hands of the authorities. What else could explain the arrival of cleaners and painters, who started putting white borders on the road, pavements, and road-dividers? Their enthusiastic work was a sight for sore eyes. Road construction workers arrived soon after. The neighbourhood was getting a makeover!

On the morning of the visit, a fog cannon truck came by, to wash the road, and do the impossible – clean the air. A govt ambulance and a fire brigade truck also drove in. The police arrived in such numbers that people feared something had gone wrong.

Finally, the CM drove in. Eager residents rushed out with their lists, but found barricades, which locked them up in their area, just like the Covid lockdown. A small price to pay for the makeover, some reasoned. As soon as the sirens sounded again, they rushed out, like little children keen to open their gifts.

Just then, someone noticed that the new white lines were drawn only up to the point where the CM had turned into a lane. Only one inside road had been reconstructed, and the road-dividers were painted only on one side – the CM's side. The stormwater drain had got two stone covers, on the CM's route. Elsewhere, drains were still open, roads were still the same, and the market floor was caked with dirt. By night, the wet white paint was once again layered with dust, and a picture-perfect setting had relapsed into its old state. We went to sleep marvelling at the skill of the authorities, in masking reality and creating illusions.

TWO TALES FROM T20

The format has marvellously democratised the star system. Anyone, in any game, can be the hero. And it has thrown up an unlikely powerhouse of cricketing talent: Bihar

Partha Sinha

India did not merely defeat New Zealand in T20 World Cup final. We dismantled them, with the calm efficiency of a watchmaker opening a clock – removing the screws, one by one, until the machinery stopped pretending it was anything complicated. Which raises the question cricket lovers instinctively ask, after a comfortable victory. Who was the architect?

Was it Abhishek Sharma, whose opening strokes arrived with the impatience of someone who already knows how the story ends? Was it Sanju Samson, whose wrists continue to perform small acts of geometry disguised as batting? Or was it Ishan Kishan, who struck the ball with cheerful violence, and then chased across the outfield, with the restless energy of a man determined to appear in every paragraph of the match?

Or perhaps it was the bowlers. Jasprit Bumrah, bending the ball with quiet menace. Axar Patel, drifting through the middle overs, like a polite magician who keeps removing wickets, while everyone is still applauding the previous trick.

The difficulty, of course, is that the question itself belongs to another era of cricket. For most of its history, the game believed in singular heroes. Cricket behaved like a monarchy. The scorecard carried eleven names, but everyone knew where the crown rested.

Test cricket perfected this architecture. A great Test innings is not merely batting. It is endurance theatre. The batsman must survive sessions that stretch like Victorian chapters. Morning: seam. Afternoon: drift. Evening: reverse swing. Fielders chirping like persistent sparrows. Bowlers returning again and again, with fresh conspiracies. It requires a temperament that borders on the monastic.

Which is why certain figures rose above eras like cathedral towers. In 1970s, India waited for Sunil Gavaskar. In 1990s, the country transferred that faith to Sachin Tendulkar. The Caribbeans carried the operatic brilliance of Brian Lara. Australia leaned on the certainty of Ricky Ponting. These were not merely batsmen. They were architecture.

When Gavaskar fell early, radios across India seemed to clear their throats nervously. When Tendulkar edged to slip, television sets quietly lost colour.

T20 cricket has quietly rewritten that script. Not with spectacle, but with certainty. The format has democratised heroism.

A great T20 innings rarely lasts more than 50 deliveries. Often far less. The format does not ask for a cathedral of concentration. It asks for 15 minutes, when bat and ball briefly agree with each other. Fifteen deliveries, well struck. Ten deliveries, badly bowled. Two edges that choose grass over fingers. Fifty runs. A hero is born.

Indian victory over New Zealand followed this new grammar perfectly. Abhishek struck first. Samson followed. Kishan arrived later. Shivam Dube did a cameo.

Four batsmen. Four brief passages of play. One victory. No single monument of batting. Just waves. Bowlers told the same story. Bumrah with his precise, faintly sinister geometry. Axar with slow puzzles that look deceptively harmless.

Remove any one of these interventions, and the match begins to look different. Together, they formed the peculiar architecture of T20 success: not one towering performance, but several small ones.

The great cricket writer, Neville Cardus, once wrote that in cricket, the individual rises within the team "like a cathedral in a town square". Test cricket still feels like that. But another historian of the game, CLR James, asked the more famous question in *Beyond a Boundary* – "What do they know of cricket who only cricket know?" James meant that cricket always reflects the society that plays it.

T20 reflects ours. Heroism today behaves differently. Once, a film star needed a decade to become a hero. A handful of successful films. A slow accumulation of public affection.

Today an influencer may achieve something similar in two weeks. A video travels. An algorithm nods in agreement. A million strangers arrive. There are creators who command heroic incomes, and vast followings, while remaining completely unknown outside their own digital tribes.

Fame itself has become a T20 format. Brief. Sudden. Democratic.

The structure of teams has begun to resemble the structure of modern life. Success no longer rests on one or two shoulders. Someone simply arrives at the right moment, and does the right thing. Another person does it the next evening. Someone else, the evening after. Victory is assembled from fragments. Success belongs to nobody. And to everybody.

The romantic may still prefer the long vigil of Gavaskar, or monumental certainty of Tendulkar. But there is something quietly satisfying about a game where the man at No. 7, can suddenly become the evening's mythology. Where a bowler with 24 deliveries, can bend a tournament. Where glory is not reserved for the chosen few. India's dismantling of New Zealand offered exactly that lesson.

In T20, the hero is rarely predetermined. He is simply whoever happens to connect 15 balls at exactly the right moment.

Avijit.Ghosh@timesofindia.com

Last month, when Ishan Kishan lit up India with a blistering innings that punctured Pakistan in Colombo, in the T20 World Cup, a widely circulated WhatsApp message said: 'Ek Bihari sab pe bhaari' (Takes just one Bihari to bring down all opponents). Sunday night against New Zealand, when the "Pocket Rocket" delivered another fine performance – a crackling half century, and a clutch of outstanding outfield catches – it's pretty certain, similar WhatsApp messages were doing the rounds.

Yet, the message isn't without irony. Ishan was born in Patna, where his father – a real estate businessman – and the rest of his family, are based. But the keeper-batter plays domestic cricket for adjacent Jharkhand, which was carved out of south Bihar in 2000. In fact, he skippered the state to title triumph in Syed Mushtaq Ali Tournament, this year.

Ishan's cricketing *palayan* – the evocative, local term describing distress migration in Bihar – to a neighbouring state isn't an isolated example.

In recent years, two pacemen, Mukesh Kumar, from the north-western district of Gopalganj, and Akash Deep, from south-western Rohtas district, have earned international spurs. Both play domestic cricket for Bengal.

These outward journeys can be primarily attributed to the messy affairs of Bihar Cricket Association. BCA was suspended by BCCI in 2004, and reinstated only after a Supreme Court directive, in 2018. Even RJD neta Tejashwi Yadav played his lone first-class match for Jharkhand, not Bihar, in 2009. BCA's factional squabbles haven't disappeared. In Jan 2024, two groups furnished separate lists of players, for a Ranji game.

This season, though, green shoots are evident. Bihar won the Plate division of both

Ranji Trophy and Vijay Hazare Trophy, hauling itself back to the Elite group, where the big boys play. For India's second-most populous state, it's a new beginning.

But what has really put the spotlight on Bihar cricket is the rise of Vaibhav Suryavanshi, an extraordinary, homegrown talent. Earlier this month, Vaibhav's transcendent 175 off 80 balls, flattened England in U-19 World Cup final. The kid, not 15 yet, smashed 15 sixes and 15 fours. *The Guardian* gushed, "There are always prodigies in sport, but this kid really is something else."

Vaibhav's breathless 35-ball ton for his IPL team, Rajasthan Royals, playing Gujarat Titans, is the second fastest in the tournament. Mohd Siraj, Ishant Sharma, Rashid Khan, and Prasidh Krishna were at his receiving end. If he stays focused, the kid is destined to be a white-ball batting god.

Cricket's latest prodigy comes from Tajpur, a puny kasbah, about 75km from the state capital. The unlikely setting only deepens the wonder of his extraordinary journey. Vaibhav would travel from his home in Rajput Tola, to the town's Patel ground, about 10km away, in the district headquarters of Samastipur, for practice.

"When he first came to me at the age of six, the ball was bigger than his hands," said Brijesh Jha, his first coach, who also runs a sports goods store. "But from the age of 8-9, he would practise 8 hours a day – 4 at home, 4 at the ground," Jha said.

Vaibhav and Ishan are in different phases of their careers. Not many remember Ishan captained a galactico-loaded U-19 India, which included Rishabh Pant, Sarfaraz Khan and Washington Sundar. They lost to West Indies, in 2016. Ishan had failed disastrously with the bat then.

The batter-keeper improved, started earning IPL megabucks, and played all formats for India. But later, he also lost form. Plus, he fell out of selection favour in the past two years, for not following BCCI norms. This T20 World Cup was his redemption song. We are witnessing Ishan 2.0 now.

Vaibhav can learn a lesson or two from Ishan's highs and lows. So can Prithvi Shaw, another talented cricketer with a Bihar connection, who captained India to the U-19 World Cup trophy.

Ishan, Vaibhav, Mukesh, and Akash Deep underline how Bihar's brimming with talent. But can the state become a domestic cricket powerhouse?

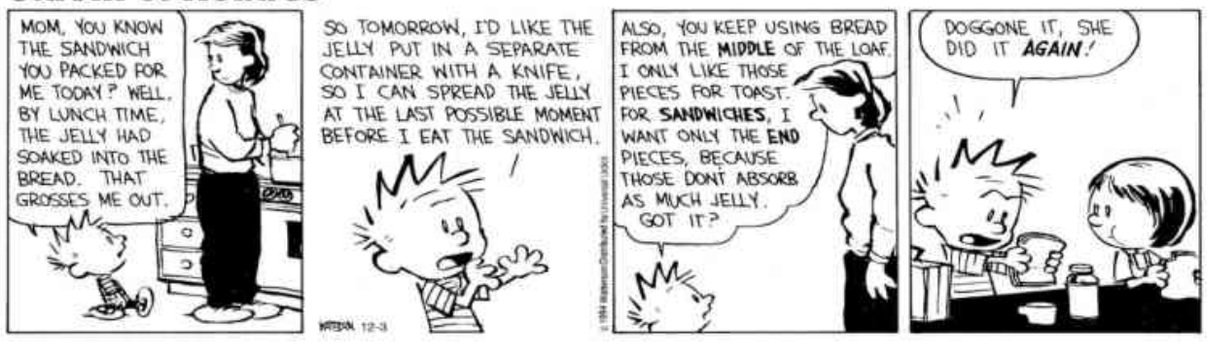
In the past decade and half, the state built lots of infra under Nitish Kumar, now on his way out. Well-built highways crisscross Bihar. Towns are expanding at a remarkable pace. And yet, the sporting infra lags far behind rest of India's.

Private cricket academies have mushroomed. But the state and BCA – it hosts a shabby website – must do their share. Bihar last hosted a cricket international in 1996. Hopefully, the spanking new stadium, and the sports complex at Rajgir, will trigger change.

Vaibhav represents the new Bihar, teeming with possibilities. He has proven it is possible to rise above your surroundings, if you combine talent and work ethic. His success, along with Ishan's, can be a game-changer for cricket in Bihar – and in India.

Images: AI

Calvin & Hobbes



Sacred*space*

Meditate unceasingly, that you may quickly behold yourself as the Infinite Essence, free from every form of misery. Cease being a prisoner of the body; using the secret key of Kriya, learn to escape into Spirit.

Lahiri Mahasaya

Dying To The World Without Dying

Anup Taneja

Seekers often complain that while making efforts to enter deep into meditation, they find it extremely difficult to subdue the turbulent mind full of distracting thoughts. This, says Paramhansa Yogananda, happens because of the outward flow of the life-current through the afferent and efferent nerves, because of the downward flow of the apan current. This traps the seekers in ephemeral pleasures of an illusory world; in the process, they tend to lose their equanimity and poise.

The question that arises is: What type of effort should the seeker make to ensure that thoughts of the Divine occupy her mind constantly, and that she can spontaneously enter deep meditation? Yogananda says this is possible if the seeker can neutralise the currents of pran, life-force, and apan, outgoing breath, descending energy in the astral spine.

To accomplish this, he strongly recommends the practice of the Kriya Yog technique, which consists of a number of pranayam-based exercises that help in hastening the process of spiritual evolution. The practitioner of kriya yog endeavours to make the pranic energy revolve upward and downward, around the six spinal centres or chakras situated in the sushumna – the hollow passage that runs through the muladhar in the spinal cord and ends in the highest spiritual centre in the brain, sahasrar.

Within the human body, or what is referred to as the pind, the entire cosmos or Brahmand is contained: the first five chakras, from muladhar to vishuddh, are centres of panch-bhutas or five elements – earth, water, fire, air and ether. The sixth chakra, ajna, is seat of mind, while the seventh, sahasrar, is located in the brain and represents Shiv, supra-causal state of consciousness. The seven loks corresponding to the seven chakras are *bhu, bhuvah, swarg, maha, jana, tapa* and *satya*. Yogananda writes: "Real yogis who practise kriya yog withdraw the life force from the body cells and sensory motor nerves and offer it – as ghee is offered into a sacrificial fire – to the seven deities or divine powers that reside in the seven astral fires in the spine, beginning from the coccyx and rising to the cerebrum."

THE SPEAKING TREE

The basic purpose of kriya yog, therefore, is to get the pran out of Ida, associated with moon that ends up in the left nostril, and Pingala, associated with sun that ends up in right nostril, and direct the life-current into the 'sushumna', in order that the seeker's mind gets detached from gross sensory perceptions. Through regular meditation, supplemented by special pranayam-based techniques, the pran and apan currents flowing into the spine become calm and even, enabling the mass of energy stored in muladhar to travel along the sushumna smoothly and with tremendous force, being drawn to the sahasrar.

When this happens, a seeker can spontaneously enter deep meditation where her ego-consciousness gets transmuted into the inconceivable bliss of the soul. She experiences a supra-causal state of consciousness, which is referred to by Yogananda as 'Dying to the world without dying'. In this state of ecstasy, the seeker understands the body "to be a motion picture of divine energy, which in turn is a dream of God's consciousness; and he, the Self, is an eternal part of dreaming consciousness".

The writer is a senior academic fellow with ICHR

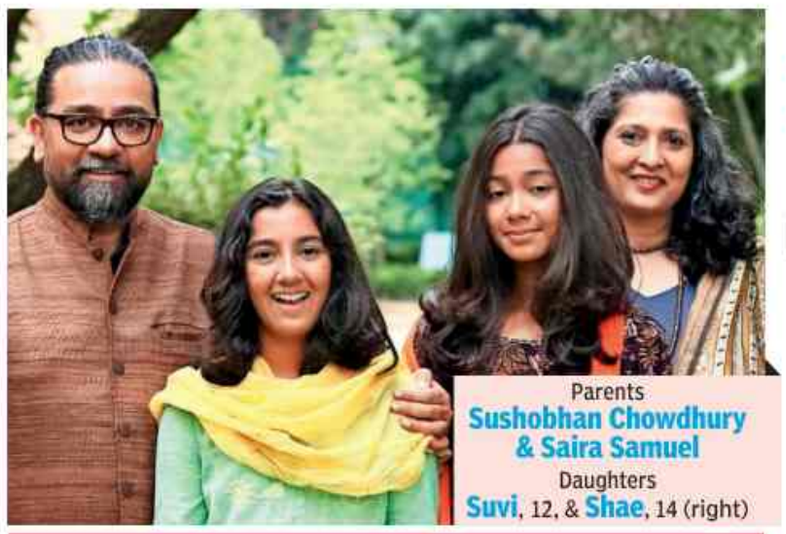
How social media is rewiring your child's relationship with money

Yasmin.Hussain@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru-based Shae Chowdhury, 14, loves shoes. She consumes a steady stream of global shows and lifestyle content on streaming platforms. She rarely asks her parents for expensive things, but when it comes to shoes, she is persistent.

"Recently, she asked us to purchase a pair of Converse shoes," says Sushobhan Chowdhury. Across India, teens chase statement pieces, fashion accessories, or expensive mobile accessories. Social media is one of the biggest accelerators of this consumption-driven thinking. The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2024 found that while 82% of children aged 14-16 use a smartphone, only 57% use it for education, while 76% use it for social media.

Experts say that the issue is not only the number of hours social media is consumed daily. "The type of content they consume matters more," says Ankit Garg, founder of Wealthy Nivesh, who has two sons.



Parents
Sushobhan Chowdhury & Saira Samuel
Daughters
Suvi, 12, & **Shae**, 14 (right)

THEIR FEED

- **Shae:** Fashion content via Netflix, YouTube and Pinterest
- **Suvi:** Unboxing videos, Roblox gameplay and digital avatar upgrades, trend-based products like Japanese-style bags

PARENTS' RESPONSE

- No personal smartphones
- Content consumed on shared screens
- Budget-based restaurant outings where money is spent within limits
- Encouraging spending on experiences over labels
- Reframing trends as functional decisions

Shift To Identity-Based Money

Meet Delhi-based Gulrez Fatima and Abdul Majid, and their 12-year-old daughter, Afeefa Naaz. Growing up, Naaz has watched her parents stretch every rupee. Their family has managed a basic lifestyle.

But Naaz's feed looks different. Her screen time often crosses seven hours a day. She spends most of it watching women creators who showcase pastel desks, aesthetic bedrooms, and chic wardrobes.

Naaz wants that life for herself. Child and adolescent psychologist Iha Prakash explains that today's children are linking money closely to what they have normalised seeing on social media. "Effort and money are no longer seen as connected," she says. "Money is increasingly tied to how you exist socially."

Collapse Of Delayed Gratification

Experts say that money content catered toward the young, be it inducing spending or building wealth, trains the mind towards instantaneous gratification. The gap between desire and fulfilment almost disappears. "Long-term tools such as systematic investment plans (SIPs) or retirement funds then begin to feel slow or even unrewarding," says Prakash.

Hustle Culture Too Early

A child wanting to be financially independent sounds admirable. But is it okay to let that take precedence over studies?

Naaz, for instance, consumes content on "how to earn money as a kid" and spends hours trying to crack the algorithm. Instead of school, friendships and skill-building, she focuses on monetisation. "Hustle narratives that glorify early income — teenagers flipping Rs 10,000 into a lakh — celebrate the outcome without explaining risk, discipline or failure," says Anooj Mehta, vice president, Partner Success at 1 Finance.

This early hustle isn't inherently bad. Many creators start young and thrive. The problem lies in the urgency, because children may underestimate the time, skill, and setbacks that real wealth creation requires. In many cases, this pushes them toward speculative shortcuts, such as high-risk futures and options trading, where the possibility of quick gains overshadows the risk of loss.

"In earlier generations, children associated money with adulthood. You gradually improved your lifestyle. Now, exposure to creators who appear to earn through content blurs many stages," says Prakash.

What Parents Can Do

Limiting screen time might sound like the easiest fix, but it risks resentment and reaction. "Contextualise. When a child says, 'I want that,' a parent's most powerful response isn't 'no', it's 'let's talk about how money actually works'," says Mehta of 1 Finance.

Consider 13-year-old Vedarth Garg. He is also interested in finance, but his curiosity is directed toward understanding long-term wealth creation. His father, Ankit Garg, regularly sits with him to discuss investing and markets. His feed reflects that orientation. He is mindful about where money is spent and why.

Unlike Vedarth, Garg's younger son, Ganak mostly watches gaming content and demands PlayStation without considering the cost.

Observe what your child is watching. If they are constantly consuming aspirational content, it is likely to influence what they begin to "want". When Chowdhury's younger daughter, Suvi, saw an expensive school bag online and demanded it, Chowdhury found a middle path. Instead of refusing, he explained his reasoning and offered a middle ground to personalise the existing bag.

Another way is to link money to effort. Assign your child a task and attach a monetary reward. This helps them understand the value of money.

Giving them limited autonomy over spending can also help. You could set a limit on a treat and let your kid choose what they want. When they are forced to choose within constraints, they begin to think about trade-offs. Allowing them to keep the leftover amount, if they spend less, can reinforce that learning. "This will create friction initially, but in the long run it works," says Prakash. If the concern is that they are glued to their screens, try offering a similar experience offline. If they love gaming, encourage them to join a gaming club or build something around it. This will nudge them to get off their screens and socialise.

MONEY LESSONS FOR KIDS, AGE BY AGE

Age group	What to do	How it helps
8-10	3-jar allowance system (save/spend/give) + weekly family "budget challenge" (e.g., a Rs 700 meal outing where they choose and track)	Teaches trade-offs and effort-value link early
10-14	Set up a Rs 300-500 monthly SIP in index fund	Makes delayed gratification tangible and exciting
14-16	Play money-related games and curate better feeds together by watching content on financial literacy	Gamifies investing; counters hustle with long-term wins
16+	Part-time gig + fixed 30% auto-save rule; discuss and open discussions around credit, BNPL and debt math	Links effort to assets, not just spending; builds debt awareness
All ages	Family "content audit": Watch one aspirational reel together, then break down hidden costs/trade-offs	Contextualises without banning; turns passive scrolling active

Municipal bonds issuance

Year	Number of issuances	Coupon range (%)	Total amount (Rs crore)
2017	1	7.59	200
2018	5	8.90-10	789.9
2019	3	8.68-10.23	500
2020	1	8.5	200
2021	1	8.1	150
2022	1	7.15	100
2023	2	8.15-8.25	444
2024	3	7.9	400
2025*	9	7.65-8.15	1,000

Total 3,783.90

Note: *Till Nov; Source: Sebi, IndiaBonds

Why municipal bonds are ready to break out

Abhinav.Kaul@timesofindia.com

India's municipal bond market is slowly gaining traction as policy makers and investors turn their attention to city financing. According to data from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), nine municipal bond issuances were completed last year till Nov, a sharp rise from three in the whole of previous year and just two the year before.

Meanwhile, the Union Budget 2026 announced a new incentive to boost India's municipal bond market. Under the proposal, if a city corporation raises more than Rs 1,000 crore through municipal bonds, it will receive an additional Rs 100 crore incentive from the govt.

For investors, this signals a stronger push to develop municipal bonds as a funding channel for urban infrastructure.

Municipal bonds are debt instruments issued by local bodies such as municipal corporations to raise funds for public infrastructure projects, including roads, water supply, sanitation, and urban development.

"India's bond markets saw broadening demand in 2025 beyond institutions to retail investors. While private placements and AAA-rated issuances continue to reflect institutional strength, retail participation in municipal bonds is meaningfully accelerating," says Priyashis Das, CEO, Altifi by Northern Arc.

Returns have been a major draw. Municipal bonds typically offer yields comparable to high-quality corporate bonds and slightly higher than state development loans (SDLs).

Aditi Mittal, co-founder of IndiaBonds.com and director at AK Group, estimates that municipal bonds currently offer a 75-100 basis-point yield premium over AAA-rated public-sector or corporate bonds. "Even at yields of around 8-8.5%, demand remains robust," she says, noting that issues tend to get fully subscribed quickly.

However, one key constraint has been the way bonds are issued. Most municipal bonds have been raised through private placements, which largely exclude retail investors.

"Surat Municipal Corporation was issued through a public issue, and the retail participation was oversubscribed by more than three times," says Deepak Panjwani, vice president at GEPL Capital.

Panjwani says issuances need to be routed through public offers, with more attractive coupons or incentives for retail and high-net-worth investors.

Despite higher issuances, secondary market liquidity remains the market's weak link. The total trading value of municipal bonds in calendar year 2025 stood at a mere Rs 175 crore.

Panjwani describes liquidity as a "major issue", pointing out that price discovery depends heavily on demand and supply. "Retail investors always look after the return, safety and exit route," he says, adding that AAA-rated PSU bonds remain far more tradable and familiar for investors.

Mittal notes that most municipal bonds are effectively buy-and-hold instruments. Issue sizes have been small, often between Rs 25 crore and Rs 200 crore, which restricts free float and trading activity. "Some trading may occur shortly after listing, but liquidity tends to dry up within two to three weeks," she says.

With total municipal bond issuance of about Rs 1,000 crore in 2025 compared with over Rs 1 lakh crore of annual corporate bond issuance, municipal bonds remain a niche segment within fixed income.

Experts say that municipal bonds can complement corporate bonds and govt securities within a retail fixed-income portfolio by offering exposure to urban infrastructure backed by specific revenue streams and govt support. For now, most advisers see municipal bonds as a satellite allocation rather than a core holding.

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ASK THE EXPERTS

I'm listed as a nominee in some of my father's demat and mutual fund folios. Would registrars still require a succession certificate or probate? — *Nitin Sharma*

The Depository Participant (DP) and Asset Management Company (AMC) will transmit the demat securities and mutual fund units to you as per the death claim process laid down by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) and the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi). However, if the value of securities exceeds Rs 15 lakh, a court order is required — probate if there is a will, or a succession certificate/letter of administration if the holder died intestate. For mutual funds, Amfi's Best Practices Guidelines set thresholds: If holdings exceed Rs 10 lakh per PAN of the deceased, a notarised copy of the probated will, succession certificate, or letter of administration from a competent court must be submitted.

Rajat Dutta
Founder & initiator, Inheritance Needs Services

My daughter, 36, has been diagnosed with avascular necrosis (AVN) of the right femoral head. Most insurers are either rejecting her proposal upon disclosure of this or offering only Rs 5 lakh cover with high premiums. What can we do? — *Neelam Prasad*

Insurers hesitate in providing insurance when there is an ailment that could aggravate, even if that possibility is remote. The main reason for this is that insurers are mandatorily required to provide life-long renewability. This excellent provision makes insurers cautious when initially placing covers.
We independently checked, without revealing identity, with 10 insurers if they would provide insurance to your daughter. Only one insurer was willing to do so. While that insurer did not put a sum assured restriction, it recommended a product with a 20% co-pay. I would suggest that you go ahead and buy the product that you are getting from the insurer. Once you have held an insurance for a year or two without significant claims, the possibility of getting enhanced insurance options from the current provider increase.

Kapil Mehta
Co-founder, SecureNow Insurance Broker

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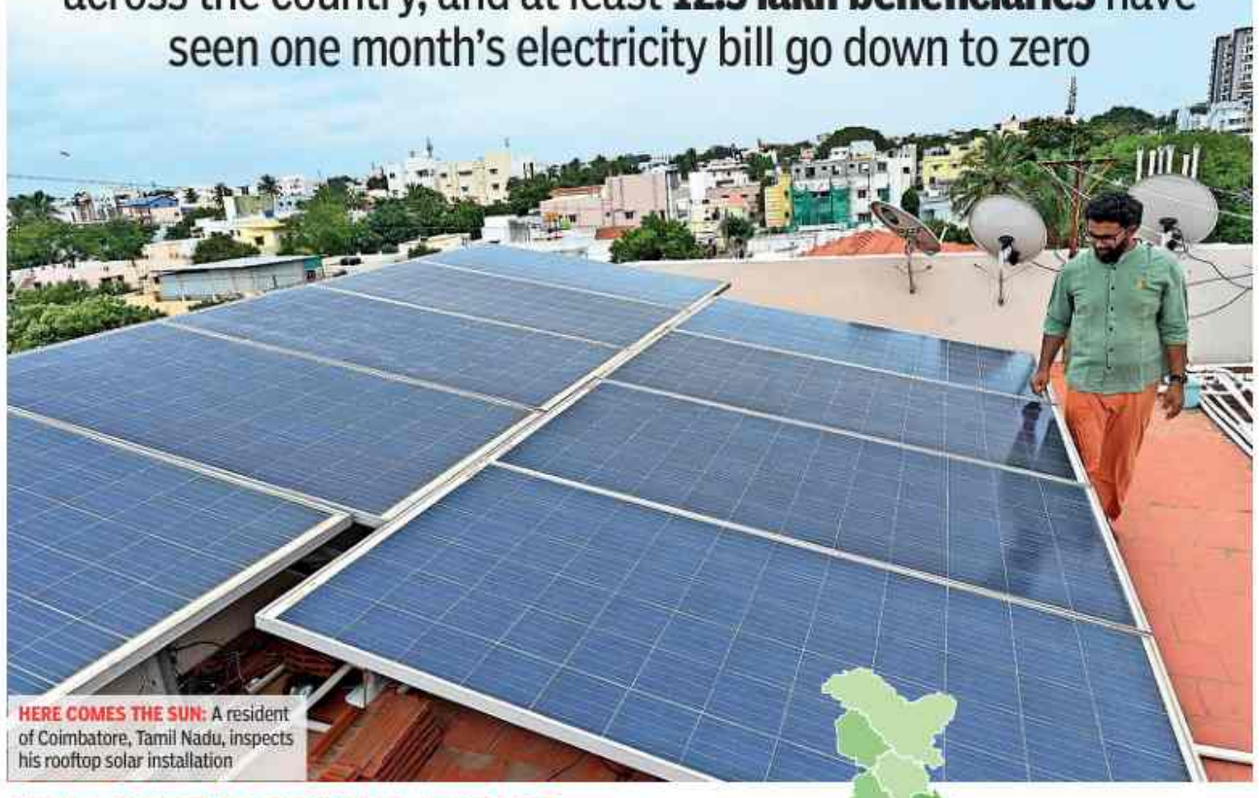
How India's 'rooftop revolution' is bringing power to the people

Two years since a national scheme for solar power systems was rolled out, more than **25 lakh sets** have been installed across the country, and at least **12.5 lakh beneficiaries** have seen one month's electricity bill go down to zero



HERE COMES THE SUN: A resident of Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, inspects his rooftop solar installation

Atul.Mathur@timesofindia.com

When Vinod Agarwal, a resident of Uttar Pradesh's Sahibabad, began noticing rooftop solar panels glinting under the afternoon sun across his neighbourhood, he was curious. But the curiosity soon turned into eager calculation, when a neighbour told him that his electricity bill had dropped to almost nothing, even as another neighbour showed him a mobile app that tracked daily power generation.

Agarwal did the math. His monthly consumption hovered around 250-300 units. With tariffs inching up each year, the savings looked compelling. Within weeks, he applied under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, and installed a 3kW system. Today, in months when his consumption stays within the generation limit, his electricity bill reads zero.

"I had seen it working in homes around me. That gave me confidence," Agarwal said. "The dual subsidy from the Centre and the state govt made the decision easier."

Powering The Numbers

Agarwal's story mirrors a wider shift playing out across the country. Launched on Feb 13, 2024, the PM Surya Ghar scheme seeks to install rooftop solar systems (RTS) in one crore households by March 2027, with a financial outlay of Rs 75,021 crore. The Centre offers a one-time subsidy of up to Rs 78,000 per household, while several states provide additional support.

Two years into the rollout, the numbers indicate steady momentum. According to the national portal, 25,28,993 rooftop systems, with an aggregate capacity of about 9,249MW, had been installed till date. The Centre has already distributed subsidies worth Rs 17,886 crore. And more than 12.5 lakh consumers have received electricity bills that read "zero" in at least one month since the launch.

A standard 3kW rooftop plant can generate roughly 300 units of electricity a month — sufficient for many middle-class households to offset their entire consumption. When rooftop solar systems installed before the launch of the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana are included, the number is estimated to be nearly 32 lakh.

Uneven Growth

Gujarat leads with nearly 5.8 lakh installations, followed by Maharashtra (4.8 lakh), Uttar Pradesh (4 lakh) and Kerala (more than 2 lakh). In contrast, adoption remains muted in the North-East. Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura together account for only about 4,500 installations, largely because of lower solar potential due to climate and terrain, apart from lower household load, grid connectivity challenges and lower disposable income. Delhi, Goa, West Bengal and Chandigarh have also posted modest numbers.

Officials acknowledge that nearly three-fourths of the installations are concentrated in 10-11 states. One reason is policy-readiness. Several states are yet to notify virtual net-metering guidelines, which allow households to feed surplus electricity into the grid and receive credits or payments.

"This is a model with a customer-first approach and has become immensely popular. People see rooftop solar at their neighbours' homes and get inspired. We want adoption across all states and are holding regular meetings with state govts," said JVN Subramanyam, joint secretary, ministry of new and renewable energy.

Also, states that offer free electricity or subsidies to frugal consumers — Punjab, Delhi, Karnataka, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu — have seen poor penetration of rooftop solar systems.

Subramanyam, however, said the deployment has seen rapid acceleration in the last few months. Monthly installations have climbed from around 15,000 at the time of launch of the scheme to over 2 lakh now. He said more than 90% of the funds allocated in the 2025-26 Union Budget were utilised within 10 months of the financial year, reflecting strong demand. The ministry of new and renewable energy has allocated Rs 22,000 crore for subsidy under the scheme in the 2026-27 Budget.

Ecosystem Challenge

Industry players, however, caution that the headline numbers mask persistent bottlenecks. Financing remains one of the weakest links. Even after subsidies, installing a rooftop solar system typically requires an upfront investment of Rs 2-2.5 lakh. Over 75% of consumers seek loans to bridge the gap. While nationalised banks and non-banking financial institutions do provide easy loans to consumers, documentation, in many cases, takes a lot of time, making the process cumbersome. "The process is slow, requires branch visits, and approvals can take two to five weeks," said Shreya Mishra, co-founder and chief executive officer of SolarSquare, a leading player in the rooftop solar business.

Bhawna Tyagi, programme lead, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), said India has a realistic residential rooftop solar potential of 118GW at current consumption levels — far above the capacity installed so far.

"To bridge the gap and tap into this immense potential, targeted consumer sensitisation on the adoption steps is needed," she said. "Equally important is building the capacity of financing institutions at district and block levels so that access to affordable credit improves, and local bank officials are aligned with central guidelines."

Baldesh Singh, renewables market analyst at S&P Global Energy, also noted that upfront costs continue to pose a barrier despite subsidies. "Customer experience with banks has been uneven and it varies by state. Loan rejection and delays in processing applications are among the key barriers," he said.

Subramanyam said the govt was working with banks to simplify financing. He added that the application process was now fully online and included geotagged terrace photos to avoid physical inspections.

Subrahmanyam Pulipaka, chief executive officer at the National Solar Energy Federation of India, said awareness remained a key challenge for both the govt and consumers. "While there is broad awareness about the scheme, understanding of the application process, system details and technical aspects is still limited," he said, adding that many organisations and civil society groups were working on the ground to spread awareness.

Trust And Quality Assurance

A rooftop solar installation is a complex system and contains multiple components — solar photovoltaic modules or panels that convert sunlight into DC electricity; inverters to convert DC to AC; mounting structures to secure panels; cables and wiring; a lightning arrestor and earthing kit, and many more. The system requires regular cleaning and maintenance to ensure optimum performance. However, dust, bird droppings, and shadow often lead to a fall in performance, and the generation may decline by 20-30%, or even more.

Experts said quality control lapses have been reported in some cases, reflecting gaps in technical expertise and adherence to safety standards. Poorly mounted panels, improper wiring, or inadequate earthing not only reduce generation but also pose safety risks.

Saurabh Marda, co-founder of Freyr Energy, one of India's largest rooftop solar companies, said the biggest mistake customers make is choosing the wrong vendor. "Poor customer experience begins from selecting the wrong solar company. Customers get swayed by lower upfront prices without checking the installer's track record, and that's where problems start," he said.

Prospective buyers, he said, should review installation data available on the PM Surya Ghar portal to assess a company's experience. According to him, inexperienced local players sometimes quote non-inclusive prices with hidden costs, install substandard systems, and may exit the business within a few years — undermining consumer confidence and the subsidy framework.

Tyagi said a poorly maintained system not only suffers from low energy output, but it may also lead to extended payback periods and reduced lifespan. Citing a CEEW 2023 study, she said soiling, shadow effects, shattered modules and wiring issues can cause capacity utilisation factors to vary widely.

"There is need for a standard operating procedure for consumers after the annual maintenance contract ends," Tyagi said. Building consumer capacity to periodically clean panels, monitor performance and report faults will ensure systems deliver on promised benefits.

While some companies sell technologically advanced systems that inform customers, via apps, that the installation requires cleaning, and some have a self-cleaning system, Mishra said a new ecosystem is slowly developing where companies offer cleaning of the system at a price.

Grid Stability A Concern

As rooftop penetration deepens, grid-readiness is another dimension that requires attention. A senior discom official said that, during sunny, high-generation hours, rooftop solar installations often produce more electricity than households consume, resulting in a significant surplus of energy fed back into the utility grid. Insufficient energy during non-solar hours causes a sharp, sudden demand for conventional power from the grid, leading to voltage fluctuations, instability, and overloading.

Ensuring that distribution networks can accommodate large-scale RTS penetration will be critical. Experts suggest that additional support for hybrid systems integrating battery storage could ease grid stress and enhance reliability, particularly during peak hours. Officials, however, accept that a hybrid system with a battery means an additional cost of nearly Rs 50,000. Marda said most cities don't see prolonged power cuts; hence, installing battery storage is not recommended, as it involves an extra cost.

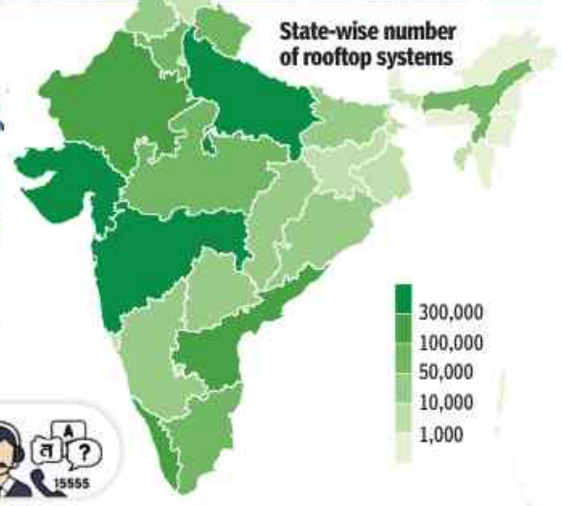
From a market perspective, analysts point out that sustained momentum will depend on maintaining process efficiency and administrative coordination across states and distribution companies. Achieving the one-crore target hinges on smoother net-metering approvals, faster subsidy disbursal and improved consumer trust.

Back in Sahibabad, Agarwal says his decision has sparked interest among relatives in other cities. "They ask about costs, savings, maintenance. I tell them to choose a good company and keep documents ready."

HOW GOVT IS DRIVING UPTAKE

- Online process from registration to disbursal of subsidy directly into the bank account of the residential consumer through national portal
- Availability of collateral-free loan from nationalised banks at concessional interest rate, with tenure of 10 years
- Simplified regulatory approval process, created through waiver of technical feasibility requirement and introduction of auto load enhancement till up to 10kW
- Net metering agreement made part of application on the national portal
- Simplified process for registration of vendors to ensure availability of sufficient and qualified vendors
- Capacity-building and training programmes under way for creation of skilled manpower
- Regular monitoring of the progress of the scheme at different levels, including with states and power distribution companies

Call centre with telephone number 15555 operational in 12 languages for grievance redress



GUJARAT

'There are minor voltage fluctuations, but overall experience is positive'

Making the most of the generous sunshine for most parts of the year, lakhs of Gujarat residents have turned their terraces into mini powerhouses that power their homes, resulting in massive savings. By harnessing the sun from their rooftops, homeowners are becoming quiet climate champions, reducing pollution while pocketing substantial savings.

According to Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd (GUVNL), the state has achieved a cumulative rooftop solar capacity of 6.6GW across 11.9 lakh installations. Of these, 5.7 lakh rooftops have been installed in the last two years under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, launched on Feb 13, 2024.

For **Ankit Kathrotiya**, a plastic granules manufacturer from Nikol, the household power bill has reduced to nil from Rs 3,500 to Rs 5,000 a month after he installed a 4kW rooftop solar system, paying Rs 1.38 lakh. After installation, Torrent Power credits about Rs 5,000 annually for surplus electricity fed into the grid. With three ACs and an electric vehicle at home, he has also added an electric geyser, citing greater cost comfort.

"The savings have been significant. There are minor voltage fluctuations but, overall, the experience has been positive," he said.

Retired govt officer Ketan Travadi, living in the upscale Thaltej area of Ahmedabad, said the scheme was simple and encouraging, with the subsidy credited within a week of installation. According to him, the payback period is about 2.5 to 3 years, after which the system delivers long-term savings and near-zero electricity bills, even in summer. So far, the state has received around Rs 4,200 crore in subsidies under the scheme. — Niyati Parikh

UTTAR PRADESH

This Varanasi homemaker saves ₹6k a month on electricity bills

In a small lane of Om Nagar Colony in Varanasi, the rooftop of **Anumati Yadav**'s house is doing more than receiving sunlight; it is powering hope. A beneficiary of the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, she installed a 3kW solar system under the scheme and now saves approximately Rs 6,000 each month on power bills.

A homemaker, Anumati supports her husband's printing business while caring for her two daughters and a son. Her younger daughter, who has 75% cerebral palsy, needs constant care. Before the solar power arrived, the family paid anything between Rs 5,500 and Rs 6,000 per month for electricity. Along with medical and therapy expenses, this put them under immense financial strain.

With support from the UP New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA), she received subsidy of Rs 1,08,000 to install the rooftop solar system. The sharp reduction in her power bill has brought relief. The savings are now being used for her daughter's treatment and care. For Anumati, solar power has reduced expenses and strengthened her daughter's future.

Her story reflects a wider shift across the state. Between Aug 2025 and Jan 2026, UP ranked second in the country in solar installations under the scheme. The highest number of systems during this period were installed in 10 major districts: Lucknow, Varanasi, Kanpur, Bareilly, Prayagraj, Agra, Jhansi, Raebareli, Shahjahanpur and Saharanpur. At present, solar projects cover 67,013 villages, and over 2 crore households. — Vivek Singh Chauhan

MAHARASHTRA

How Nagpur set pace for green energy

With strong consumer response, competitive pricing, and rising awareness, Nagpur's rooftop solar surge is not just reducing electricity bills but also setting the pace for Maharashtra's broader renewable energy ambitions.

Emerging as the frontrunner in the state's rooftop solar expansion, Nagpur district is driving the state's clean energy push under PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. With 67,669 rooftop solar systems installed since the scheme was launched around two years back, generating around 261.45MW of capacity, Nagpur has become the state's best-performing district.

A homeowner cleans his rooftop solar installation in Nagpur

Officials and industry stakeholders attribute Nagpur's impressive numbers to its high solar irradiance, large number of independent houses suitable for rooftop installations, and growing consumer awareness.

The district has also witnessed a sharp rise in the number of empanelled solar vendors, making it one of the most competitive rooftop solar markets in Maharashtra. Consumers now have multiple vendor options and financing avenues, further accelerating installations.

Akshay Chouhan, who installed a 5kW rooftop system, said: "My experience under the PM Surya Ghar Yojana was very good. I contacted three vendors before finalising one, who quoted Rs 2.75 lakh for a 5kW system, including the Rs 78,000 subsidy. Earlier, my electricity bill was around Rs 5,000 in normal months and Rs 8,000 during summer. Now, my bill is zero. The system was installed within a month." — Viraj Deshpande

Tesseract: Time isn't a ticking clock, it's like an accordion

We inhabit three dimensions, moving through the fourth (time) like a needle on a record, convinced that only the 'now' under the needle exists. That's because we don't understand that the 'then' and the 'now' are different coordinates in a map we haven't learnt to read. A fine example of popular culture's attempt to explain this concept is the 1997 Hollywood classic, 'Contact', based on Carl Sagan's book

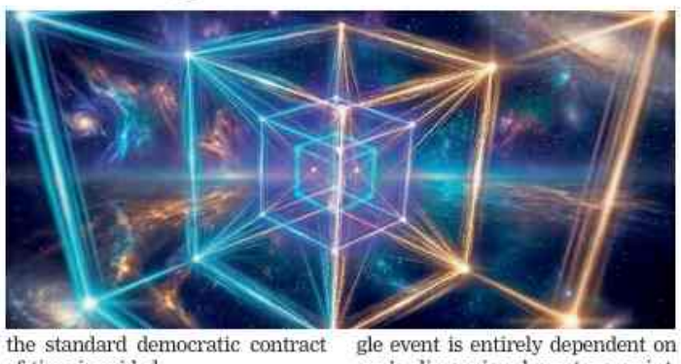
By Preeti Mehta

Time has long been treated as the ultimate democratic constant. In the ledger of the universe, everyone is supposedly credited with the same 24 hours, regardless of status or geography. Yet, as any knowledge worker staring at a vanishing deadline, or a traveller trapped in the purgatory of a flight delay knows, this is a statistical illusion. Time does not flow; it stretches, contracts, and occasionally refuses to move at all.

We are told by physicists that time is a dimension, but to the rest of us, it usually just feels like a long Monday morning. To understand this elasticity, one must first visualise the 'Metric of Trust' we place in our 3-dimensional reality. We move through length, width, and height with total confidence, yet we are blindsided by the fourth. This is where the 'Tesseract' serves as the perfect intellectual anchor.

A tesseract is to a cube, what a cube is to a square — a 4-dimensional hypercube. While we can only see its 'shadow' in our world — often depicted as a haunting cube-within-a-cube — it represents a direction of movement we cannot physically take. It is the geometric proof that there is 'more' available, more than what our senses report. If we could step into the corridors of a tesseract, we might see the past and future, not as distant memories or hopes, but as adjacent rooms in the same house.

Few popular works captured this 'preservation vs renovation' of our reality better than Carl Sagan's 1985 novel, 'Contact'. In the story, Eleanor Arroway discovers that our 3-dimensional existence is merely a thin skin, stretched over a much deeper complex. When she finally travels through the 'Machine', she isn't just moving across space; she is traversing a landscape, where



the standard democratic contract of time is voided.

Released in an era before science fiction became a ubiquitous weekly commodity, Contact's central thesis remains radical. For the observers on the ground, Ellie's drop through the Machine lasts a mere fraction of a second — a blip in the recording. For Ellie, the experience encompasses hours of wonder and conversation. Both accounts are objectively true, proving that the time-horizon of a single event is entirely dependent on one's dimensional vantage point. Time, it turns out, is less like a ticking clock, and more like an accordion, played by a musician who ignores the metronome.

Sagan, a master of the 'Stakeholder Logic' of the cosmos, loved to bridge these dizzying gaps with homespun metaphors. His most famous demonstration involved a humble apple. If you slice an apple horizontally, each disk represents a 2-dimensional world. A 'Flatlander' living on one slice would be oblivious to the slices above or below. To them, their thin layer is the totality of existence. The third dimension — the height of the apple — is an invisible ghost.

If we extend this logic to our own lives, we realise we are the Flatlanders of time. We inhabit three dimensions, moving through the fourth (time) like a needle on a record, convinced that only the 'now' under the needle exists. But from the perspective of a tesseract, the entire record exists simultaneously. The 'then' of 1980s, when Sagan wrote the book, and the 'now' of the 2020s are not gone; they are simply different coordinates on a map we haven't learned to read.

Sagan even offered a 'Modest Proposal' regarding the fundamental constants of nature, specifically the transcendental number 'pi'. He speculated that if one calculated pi to a deep enough decimal point, a non-random pattern — a circle of zeroes and ones — would appear. This would be the ultimate 'kicker': a signature from an architect, proving that the universe was built with a specific intent, and that mathematics is the bridge between our 3-dimensional limits, and the higher-dimensional reality of the tesseract.

Ultimately, this suggests that our daily struggle with time — the alarms, the ageing, the 'five more minutes' — is a local phenomenon, a byproduct of our limited perspective. Somewhere in the cosmic architecture, yesterday is still unfolding and tomorrow is already settled. We are simply stakeholders in a long-lasting outcome that we currently only see in cross-sections. This is a comforting thought. It implies that when we feel time 'crawling', we aren't being poetic. We are simply catching a glimpse of the fourth dimension's true, mischievous shape.

The writer is an Ahmedabad-based anaesthesiologist

TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026

When gold loses shine amid market turmoil

Gold, usually a safe haven during geopolitical tensions, has slipped as four forces push investors away from bullion — a stronger dollar, oil-driven inflation fears, higher interest-rate expectations and investors raising cash

DOLLAR STRENGTH
The dollar index jumped 0.7% as investors rushed into the US currency — a rival safe haven that often pulls money away from gold

OIL SURGE
Brent briefly neared $120/barrel, fuelling inflation fears and pushing expectations that US interest rates may stay higher for longer

RATE WORRIES
Higher borrowing costs lift bond yields, making non-interest-paying gold less attractive to investors

CASH SCRAMBLE
During sharp equity sell-offs, investors sometimes sell gold to raise liquidity, even though bullion is still up about 18% this year

Key market numbers

GOLD: fell as much as 3% in intraday

SPOT GOLD: about $5,100/oz

DOLLAR INDEX: up 0.3% on the day

SILVER: fell 0.9% to $83.82/oz

Source: Bloomberg, ETIG

THEY ALL FALL DOWN: Sensex Slides 1,353 Points As Sharp Rise In Crude Prices Take Toll | Rupee Drops 58P Against Dollar

Another bruising day on D-Street as sensex ends session deep in the red

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Deteriorating geopolitical situation in West Asia and weak market conditions around the world led to a sharp sell-off on Dalal Street early on Monday resulting in the index plunging nearly 2,500 points. However, late in the session stocks recovered some of the losses as traders speculated about an address by US President Donald Trump early Tuesday. At close sensex was down 1,353 points (1.7%) at 77,566 points, its lowest close since April 16, 2025.

On NSE, Nifty too showed a similar trend to close at 24,028 points, down 422 points (1.7%). For both the indices, Monday's was the fourth session of losses in the last five since the war started on Feb 28.

Over the weekend as the war entered its second week, with the US-Israel combine pounding Iran with bombs and missiles, there was heavy retaliation from Iran which mainly targeted US military assets across Gulf nations and in some of the surrounding areas. As a result, almost all the Asian markets started the day deep in the red which also impacted investor sentiment on Dalal Street as trading started in the new week with heavy selling. At close of the session investors were poorer by nearly Rs 8.6 lakh crore with BSE's market capitalisation now at Rs 441.1 lakh crore.

According to Ajit Mishra, SVP—Research, Religare Broking, the domestic market extended the recent downtrend amid negative global cues and rising geopolitical tensions. Since the war started on Feb 28, the sensex has lost a little over 3,700 points or 4.6%.

"Investor sentiment remained fragile due to escalating geopolitical tensions in (West Asia), which triggered a sharp surge in crude oil prices, with Brent crude testing the $119.5 mark, raising concerns over inflation and economic growth. The spike in oil prices, weakness in the rupee, and continued foreign (fund) selling further intensified the sell-off in domestic equities," Mishra said.

In Monday's market, foreign funds were net sellers at Rs 6,346 crore while domestic funds were net buyers at Rs 9,014 crore, BSE data showed.

Of the 30 sensex stocks, 25 ended in the red. Of these ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and SBI contributed the most to the day's loss in the index. On the other hand, five stocks closed with gains, led by Reliance Industries that partially cushioned the fall.

INVESTORS LOSE ₹8.6L CR ON MANIAC MONDAY

Sensex and Nifty were down 1.7% each on Monday as higher crude oil prices sparked concerns over growth and inflation; the rupee dived to a new all-time low of 92.35 to-a-dollar and foreign investors pulled out funds worth nearly Rs 6,350 crore from Indian stocks

BSE sensex

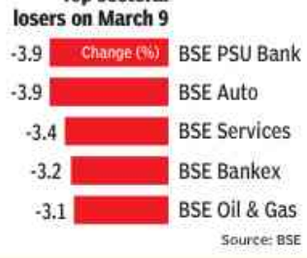
Biggest laggards on Monday

UltraTech Cement	-5%
Maruti	-4.6%
Mahindra & Mahindra	-4.4%

Top Gainers

Reliance	1.4%
Sun Pharma	0.5%
Infosys	0.5%

Top sectoral losers on March 9

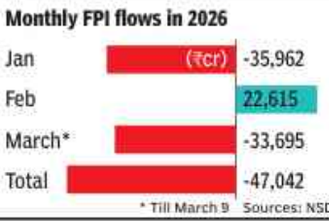


Source: BSE

In Equities On March 9...

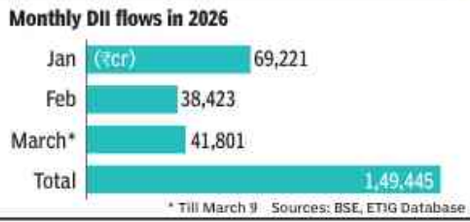
Investors' wealth lost	Net selling by foreign funds	Net buying by domestic funds
₹8.6 lakh crore	₹6,346 crore	₹9,014 crore

Monthly FPI flows in 2026



* Till March 9 Sources: NSDL, BSE

Monthly DII flows in 2026



* Till March 9 Sources: BSE, ETIG Database

Rising fuel prices in US lead to decline in stock prices

US stocks dropped on Monday, continuing on from the biggest weekly drop since Oct, as the prospect of a prolonged war in Iran sent energy prices soaring and stoked fears over inflation. The S&P 500 Index dropped 1.1% , while the tech-heavy Nasdaq 100 Index fell 1%. Brent crude soared 9.1% to $101 a barrel as Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, started to reduce oil production. The move by the kingdom follows the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Iraq. "With no obvious diplomatic resolution and rhetoric being intensified on both sides, this is now likely to get the attention of markets more this week as the potential for a protracted engagement seems higher," said Aoifinn Devitt, MD for global wealth at Moneta Group Investment Advisors. BLOOMBERG

Runaway crude weighs on oil & gas, paints stocks

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Rising crude oil prices in the international markets took a heavy toll on most oil & gas, and paints stocks as these industries face the prospect of runaway raw material rates. At Monday's close, among the leading stocks from these two sectors, BPCL was down 6.1%, HPCL 5.1%, GAIL 4.3% and Asian Paints 2.6%.

On Monday morning, Brent crude prices had jumped to near the $120/barrel level, highest since early-June 2022, as supply lines in the Gulf region choked due to the ongoing war. But by evening it was trading just below the $100 mark.

Among the oil & gas majors, however, Reliance Industries bucked the trend by a huge margin and closed 1.4% up. The refining major rallied on the back of news that gross refining margins in Singapore, the Asian benchmark for how much refineries earn on an average by refining crude oil, had jumped more than three-fold since the war started.

Rising crude prices could impact Nifty also, a report by ICICI Securities noted. If crude oil prices remain above $100, that would be an indication that the severe oil supply disruption could continue for a longer period of time, the report said.

Rupee tumbles to new low of 92.35 against $

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The rupee fell to a record low on Monday and closed at 92.33, down 58 paise from Friday's close of 91.75, as escalating conflict in West Asia pushed crude oil prices to around $119 a barrel and triggered foreign capital outflows from oil-importing markets seeking safer assets. The currency touched a record low of around 92.35 during the session, pressured by rising oil prices, a stronger dollar, and foreign portfolio outflows, while central bank intervention through dollar selling likely helped limit steeper losses.

Crude oil prices surged above $100 a barrel, reaching levels last seen in mid-2022 and increasing pressure on oil-importing Asian economies. Several regional currencies also weakened sharply, with some touching record lows as investors reassessed risks linked to higher energy costs and geopolitical tensions.

"India imports nearly half of its total energy needs, including crude oil, gas, fertilisers and edible oils. That exposure becomes a major risk when global prices rise sharply. Roughly speaking, every one-dollar increase in the price of crude adds about $1.8 billion to India's annual import bill. If crude were to rise by about $50 a barrel, the additional cost could reach close to $90 billion, which is more than 2% of GDP," said Neelkanth Mishra, chief economist, Axis Bank.

He said that if prices remain elevated for an extended period, it would create a significant distortion in the balance of payments. Even if the increase were closer to $50 billion rather than $90 billion, the strain would still be substantial. In the near term, prices could move even higher as tensions build, he said.

He said the conflict could be short lived because it does not serve the interests of major powers such as the United States or China to allow it to drag on. "What we are likely seeing is a phase of brinkmanship that may last a few weeks—perhaps four to six weeks—before some form of resolution emerges," he said.

RUPEE VS OTHER KEY CURRENCIES

Date	09/3/2026	02/3/2026	% Chg
Euro	106.69	106.97	0.3
Pound	123.34	122.72	-0.5
Yen (Japan)	58.26	58.17	-0.2
Won (Korea)	0.06	0.06	0
Ringgit (Malaysia)	23.26	23.30	0.3
Hong Kong Dollar	11.80	11.71	-0.8
Ruble (Russia)	1.18	1.18	0
Turkish Lira	2.09	2.08	-0.48

Sebi chief urges calm amid global turbulence

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Sebi chief **Tuhin Kanta Pandey** on Monday urged the investing community to not panic in the current volatile geopolitical situation even as markets have been sliding and said that it is important not to get too worried at this moment since India's economic fundamentals are strong.

The top markets regulator admitted that global markets are experiencing turbulence and volatility arising from the war in West Asia that is choking off vital shipping lines, triggering oil & gas supply and price shocks.

"Like rest of the globe, India too is deeply impacted by such developments. Yet, amid such uncertainties, India's domestic fundamentals have continued to remain strong providing resilience. It is important not to panic at this moment, but to remain calm amidst this storm," Pandey said. The Sebi chief was speaking at a function celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Nifty 50 index at NSE's headquarter in the city.

"The Nifty itself has navigated several such phases in the past 30 years—periods of uncertainty, volatility and global shocks. And yet, over the long run, it has continued to reflect the strength and resilience of India's growth story," Pandey said. He said the emergence of the benchmark index must be viewed in the context of the transformation taking place in India's financial markets in the mid-1990s.

Anthropic appears before Belagavi court in name row

Belagavi: Anthropic India Private Limited, the Indian subsidiary of US-based AI firm Anthropic PBC, appeared before the Belagavi district and commercial court on Monday following a summons in a case filed by Belagavi-based IT startup Anthropic Softwares Private Limited, **reports Ravindra Uppar**. The dispute centres on the use of the "Anthropic" brand name. During Monday's hearing, counsel representing Anthropic India Private Limited argued that although it is a subsidiary of the US-based parent company, it is a separate legal entity registered in India and has no direct connection with the claims made in the original suit. Presiding over the case, judge Manjunath Nayak posted the matter for further hearing on March 23, allowing the defendant to present detailed arguments.

Meesho stock falls 10% after ₹1,500-cr tax notice

Bengaluru: Shares of Meesho hit the lower circuit on Monday after the company disclosed that it had received a tax demand of nearly Rs 1,500 crore from the income-tax department. The e-commerce platform's stock fell 10% on Monday to close at Rs 143.3 on the NSE. In a regulatory filing, Meesho said it had received an assessment order along with a demand notice for the assessment year 2023–24. TNN

How 15 young engineers built Sarvam's 105-bn LLM

Startup Offers APIs Powering Hundreds Of AI Applications

Shilpa.Phadnis
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: At Sarvam, the effort to build a 105-billion-parameter foundational large language model (LLM) was led by a team of just 15 researchers and engineers — many of them in their twenties and early thirties. The effort was spearheaded by Rahul Aralikatte, a postdoctoral researcher at Mila–Quebec AI Institute, headed by Turing Award winner Yoshua Bengio.

Aralikatte led the team's work across data engineering, large-scale pre-training, evaluation frameworks and safety guardrails for the model. He holds six US patents and has authored more than 30 peer-reviewed papers in journals and conferences, with over 1,000 citations.

Among the contributors were Sumanth Doddapaneni, a machine learning researcher at Sarvam and a fourth-year PhD student (currently on leave) in the computer science department at IIT Madras. Doddapaneni managed the model's pre-training runs and contributed to data engineering, while Mohit Singla and Aashay Sachdeva worked across data engineering and post-training. Anna Upreti focused on safety and alignment during the model's post-training phase.

"The 105-billion-parameter model was trained completely from scratch by a very small team — about 15 people, most of whom are early in their careers. I sometimes jokingly call them 'kids', but they worked day and night to make it happen," said Sarvam cofounder Vivek Raghavan. "What matters is identifying the people who can become 10x or even 100x engineers."

Sarvam has a team of 40 technologists and describes itself as a full-stack GenAI company, with work spanning the entire stack — from core models to end-user applications. At the foundation, it trains models from scratch and enhances them through fine-tuning and reinforcement learning. On top of this sit harnesses and orchestration layers that allow the models to perform useful tasks.

Sarvam has also developed several product families, including Sarvam for Conversations, which enables AI-driven communication across India's languages; Sarvam for Work, focused on enterprise workflows and internal process automation; and Sarvam Studio, designed to help create content in Indian languages and culturally relevant formats. In addition, the company provides APIs for developers, with hundreds of companies and developers already using them to build AI-powered products.

Raghavan added that two factors tend to attract talent to Sarvam. "Many of them feel strongly about building technology for India's needs. And when you work at a company like Sarvam, you can contribute across a much larger scope of work. At a large multinational company, you might only work on a small piece of a much bigger system," he said.

India's twenty-somethings are fast emerging as AI natives, mirroring trends seen in the West, where young founders and developers are building cutting-edge AI start-ups such as Mercor and Cursor — many of them led by Indian-American entrepreneurs. Commenting on India's AI talent, Manish Gupta, senior director at Google DeepMind, said teams in India are driving research to make AI models more efficient while better reflecting the country's linguistic and cultural diversity.

"We are inspired by how Indian innovators use these capabilities to build indigenous solutions. It is exciting to see local innovation thriving in India as we continue to advance the frontiers of general reasoning with Gemini and our other foundational models," he said.

Sarvam's Fabulous-15

The team worked across data engineering, pre-training, post-training, safety and evaluation. It includes **Rahul Aralikatte, Sumanth Doddapaneni, Mohit Singla, Aashay Sachdeva, Anand Bollu, Harveen S, Arpit Dwivedi, Tanay Anand, Sushil Khyalia, Manav Singhal, Raghavan A K, Harshit Kedia, Ritvik Aryan Kalra, Anna Upreti and Soham Petkar.**

"The 105-billion-parameter model was trained completely from scratch by a very small team — about 15 people, most of whom are early in their careers. I sometimes jokingly call them 'kids', but they worked day and night to make it happen

Vivek Raghavan | COFOUNDER, SARVAM

Women founders ride out startup funding chill

B'luru Leads Funding As Investors Back Women Founders Despite Slower Deals

Times News Network

Bengaluru: Venture capital firms including Elevation Capital, Vertex Ventures and Peak XV Partners were among the most active investors backing women co-founded startups in India in 2025, even as overall funding in the segment remained largely stable, according to a report by Tracxn.

At the early stage, Elevation Capital led investor activity in women-founded startups during the year, followed by Vertex Ventures and Peak XV Partners. In the seed stage, Venture Catalysts, Inflection Point Ventures and Antler emerged as the most active investors backing early-stage companies, while growth-stage participation included firms such as Creaegis.

The report found that India's tech startups with at least one woman co-founder raised about $1 billion in equity funding in 2025, compared with $1.1 billion in 2024, marking a 12% year-on-year decline.

Deal activity, however, dropped sharply. The number of funding rounds fell 29% to 405 in 2025 from 574 in the previous year, suggesting that investors are becoming more selective and prioritising startups with stronger fundamentals and clearer revenue visibility.

Funding trends varied across stages. Early-stage investments rose 12% year-on-year to $533 million, even as the number of deals declined. Seed-stage funding fell to $261 million from $342 million in 2024, while late-stage funding dropped to $213 million from $326 million. Bengaluru remained the top destination for funding into women-founded startups, attracting $384 million and accounting for 38% of the total capital deployed during the year. Mumbai followed with $112 million.

The ecosystem also saw stronger exit activity. Women co-founded startups recorded 33 acquisitions in 2025, up from 12 in the previous year. Among the largest exits was enterprise marketing platform Resulticks, which was acquired by Diginex in a deal valued at about $2 billion. Resulticks was founded by marketing technology entrepreneur Redickaa Subrammanian along with co-founder Daxsan RB and focuses on real-time customer engagement and marketing automation for global brands.

DEALS LOSE STEAM IN 2025

Funding	Funding rounds	Series A+ rounds	First-time funded companies
$1.0bn (vs $1.1bn)	405 (vs 574)	94 (vs 118)	112 (vs 127)
↓12%	↓29%	↓20%	↓12%

New additions to Soonicorn Club	New unicorns	Acquisitions	IPOs
32 (vs 52)	— (–)	33 (vs 12)	2 (vs 3)
↓38%	–	↑175%	↓33%

Nscale raises $2 billion, adds Sandberg, Clegg to board

Nscale, a UK developer of artificial intelligence data centres, has raised $2 billion in funding and added three high-profile business leaders to its board, including former Meta Platforms executives Sheryl Sandberg and Nick Clegg.

Norwegian energy firm Aker ASA and investment firm 8090 Industries led the Series C round, which values the startup at $14.6 billion, the AI hyperscaler said in a statement on Monday. Several tech companies also participated in the round, including Nvidia, Lenovo Group and Nokia Oyj.

Spun out of a cryptocurrency mining operation in early 2024, Nscale has quickly become one of the most prominent data centre newcomers cashing in on the AI boom as a so-called neocloud operator, renting out computing resources to companies developing AI. Nscale has tried to distinguish itself as a provider tailored for Europe, pledging major projects in the UK, Norway and Portugal.

Nscale's latest round places it among Europe's most valuable startups. The new appointments also add seasoned technology executives to a board that previously consisted largely of management and investors with limited sector experience. The explosion of activity in AI has created a cottage industry of data centre development, with many untested companies turning to debt markets to finance real estate, servers and expensive chips. BLOOMBERG

Charles Schwab leases 3.4L sqft in Hyderabad

Bengaluru: US financial services company Charles Schwab has leased about 340,000 sqft of office space in Hyderabad, with capacity to accommodate around 2,000 employees, according to documents sourced from real estate analytics platform Propstack. The brokerage firm had earlier incorporated a new legal entity, Charles Schwab Services India (Schwab India). Pradeep Menon has taken over as managing director and country head of Charles Schwab India. TNN

FM: No substantial impact of crude surge on inflation

New Delhi: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said that the increase in oil prices is unlikely to result in a significant acceleration in inflation.

"Given that India's inflation is near the lower bound, the impact on inflation is not estimated to be substantial at this point," the minister said in response to a question in the Lok Sabha on Monday. Citing the MPC's report from last Oct, FM said that a 10% increase in crude prices from the baseline assumption and assuming full pass through will translate into a 30 basis point increase in inflation (100 basis points equal a percentage point).

Latest official data estimated retail inflation at 2.8%, which is closer to the lower end of the 2-6% band fixed for the monetary policy committee (MPC). Between the end of Feb and March 2, the cost of crude for domestic refiners, referred to as Indian basket price, had increased 16% to $80.2 a barrel and is now on the verge of breaking the $100 a barrel mark. Apart from an increase in crude prices, a weaker rupee will add to the import bill and the cost of oil refiners.

While cooking gas prices have increased, govt has ruled out an immediate hike in petrol and diesel prices given that the oil marketing companies were making healthy profits until the conflict in West Asia. TNN

Government of Karnataka
Panchayath Raj Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer, Hassan Division Hassan.

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO -26/2025-26
Dated : 05.03.2026

The tender are invited by the Executive Engineer Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Hassan on be-half of the Governor of Karnataka through KPPP portal for the following works are sanctioned under the head of account of 2025-26TH CMIDP Grant The work details are available in the www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal. ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ 01 INDENT NO:RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25256 ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ Rs.191.83 lakhs 02 INDENT NO:RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25257 ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ Rs.170.74 lakhs THE IMPORTANT DATES ARE AS FOLLOWS Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications 12.03.2026 16.00 hours Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders 13.03.2026 16.00 hours Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid 16.03.2026 16.05 hours Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid After approval of Technical bid.

sd/- Executitive Engineer,
P.R.E.Division, Hassan.

RAIL COACH FACTORY, KAPURTHALA

On-line bids are invited by PCMM, RCF on behalf of President of India for following items:-

S. No.	Tender No. and Due Date	Description	Quantity (Nos./Sets)	EMD (Rs.)
1.	02261065A 07.04.2026	Harness of LHB EOG Non-AC LSCN		13,66,790/-
2.	05251597A 06.04.2026	Roof Arch. PL No. 33555000	9786 Nos.	4,39,990/-
3.	14261002 31.03.2026	Fire Extinguisher	2104 Nos.	2,09,380/-
4.	12261019 26.03.2026	Set of FRP Modular Toilet for MEMU/TC 3-Phase Coaches	125 Sets	6,69,970/-
5.	17261016 30.03.2026	Set of Ladders for LHB SCN Coaches	295 Sets	3,06,180/-
6.	02261089 30.03.2026	9 KVA, 750 V AC/415 V AC/ 190 V AC, 3-Phase, Dry Type Distribution Transformer for LHB Type Non-AC Coaches		7,35,380/-
7.	05261127 30.03.2026	Partition Frame	38 Set	1,53,350/-

1. For details and making on-line bids, visit website **http://ireps.gov.in**. Drawings/specifications, wherever required can be downloaded from RCF website **http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in**. Class III-b digital signature certificate required for on-line bidding, can be obtained from licensed certifying agencies listed at **http://www.cce.gov.in**. **2.** Tenders will close at 14.25 Hrs. on due date and tenders will be opened at 14.30 hrs. Tender at Sl. No. 1 to 6 will be opened at RCF Kapurthala and Sl. No. 7 at Tilak Bridge, New Delhi. **3.** For queries, contact IREPS Helpdesk at 011-24102855, 011-24105180 or RCF helpdesk at 011-23378658.

Note: GST Number of RCF is 03AAAGM0289C1ZT. All the suppliers are advised to quote this in dispatch documents for the supplies made by them. **PCMM**

CORRIGENDUM

Tenderers may please note the following changes in 1. Tender No. 05251643 for Procurement of Set of Under Frame Items for LHB SCN Coaches, Due date to be read as 18.03.2026 instead of 03.03.2026. **2.** Tender No. 17261006, Due date to be read as 12.03.2026 instead of 05.03.2026. **3.** Tender No. 17261004 , Due date to be read as 12.03.2026 instead of 05.03.2026. **4.** Tender No. 02251676 for Fire Barrier Sealant, **(i)** Due date to be read as 25.03.2026 instead of 20.03.2026, **(ii)** Quantity to be read as 6511 Nos. instead of 2338 Nos., **(iii)** EMD to be read as Rs. 2,84,270.00 instead of Rs. 1,02,080.00. **All other terms & conditions will remain the same.** **PCMM**

R.O. No. 140-S/2025-26 Dated 09.03.2026

Government of Karnataka
Public Works Department, Special Division, Hunsur
Short Term Tender Notification
(Through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)
IFT No: 23/2025-26 **Date: 06-03-2026**

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka the undersigned has invited itemised tender for 06-works related to Hunsur Division as per terms and conditions of "standard tender documents" KW-1 & KW-4 from the eligible registered contactors under PWD through kppp Portal. Maximum amount put to tender Rs.3833.61 lakhs and Minimum amount put to tender Rs.4.68 lakhs, Maximum EMD amount of Rs.38,34,000/- and Minimum EMD amount of Rs.11,700/- Tender documents downloaded from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in website, as per tender notification works Sl.no 1 Dt: 06-03-2026 and Sl.no 2 to 6 Dt: 07-03-2026 and Last date for submission of filled tender documents is, works Sl.no 1 Dt: 13-03-2026 and Sl.no 2 to 5 Dt: 16-03-2026 & Sl.no 6 Dt: 23-03-2026 Period for completion of works (including monsoon) Maximum 18-Months & Minimun 2-days For more details visit the undersigned during office working hours.

Note: 1) The employer reserves the rights to Reject or Accept any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons. **2)** Tender extension/Addencum/Corrigendum etc, will be notified only in KPP Portal and will not be published in news papers.

Sd/- Executive Engineer

DIPR/DMYS/1004/KSMCA/1015/2025-26

BANGALORE MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No.5, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com
No:BMICAPA/CLU-03/102/2025-26/2787 Date: 07.03.2026

PUBLICATION
(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

M/s EMINENCE VENTURES Represented by its Managing Partner Mr. Akif Ahad S/o Mukhtar Ahamed and Sri Mahadevu.K S/o Late Karimadegowda have applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture"** Zone to **"Residential"** purpose pertaining to Sy.No.180/9 extent of 0Acre-32Guntas, Sy.No. 14/1 extent of 0Acre-11 1/2 Guntas, Sy.No.14/5 extent of 0Acre-06Guntas totally measuring 01Acre-9 1/2 Guntas of Hampapura Village Kasaba Hobli, Srirangapatna Taluk, Mandya District under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid lands are reserved for **Agriculture Zone** in approved Master Plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1. If this land is developed and layout formed, sites will be available at reasonable rates to General Public.
2. If this land is developed Job Opportunities will be available to all sector of labourers.
3. If this land is developed, then the surrounding area will also get developed.
4. If the development of layout takes place the public are benefited with the civic amenities such as good roads, UGD, electrical facilities and parks etc.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/-
Member Secretary,
BMICAPA, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/6066/MAA/23-26

KARNATAKA REAL ESTATE REGULATORY AUTHORITY
No. 1-1/15, Ground Floor, Silver Jubilee Block, Unity Building, C.S.I Compound, 3rd Cross, Mission Road, Bengaluru - 560027.
No: KRERA/2025-26/SE0004/CALL-2 **Date: 09-03-2026**

NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from Agencies for **Providing Manpower Resource on Outsource basis for required number of posts in Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority and Karnataka Real Estate Appellate Tribunal, Bengaluru.** Last Date for Receipt of Applications in the prescribed format, along with supporting documents is **16-03-2026.**

The detailed notification is available on Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Secretary
Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority

DIPR/CP/6110/Adverto/2025-26

TUMAKURU MACHINE TOOL PARK
(Joint Venture of GOI & GOK)
(CIN-U45207KA2017NPL099566) GSTIN: 29AAGCT1225P1ZX
No. 2, 2/1 & 2/3, KIADB Building, 6th Floor, Acharya Tulasi Marga, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-09,
Ph: 080-22288843 e-Mail: tmtp@kiadb.in, Website: www.tmtp.in
No: TMTP/F&A/027/E-auction 04/43/2025-26 Date: 09.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tumakuru Machine Tool Park (TMTP), (SPV), intends to invest its surplus funds of **Rs. 16.60 Crore** in the Fixed Deposit for a period of **181 days** with Nationalized / Public Sector Banks. Last date and time for submitting the tender is: **16.03.2026 at 16.00 hours.** For more details visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, TMTP

BANGALORE MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No.5, Second Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560009
Ph: 080-22341230/35, E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com
No:BMICAPA/CLU-03/105/2025-26/2789 Date: 07.03.2026

PUBLICATION
(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

Sri Iftekhar Shergil Ahad S/o Late Abdul Ahad and Sri Mukhtar Ahmed Sto Late Abdul Ahad have applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from" Agriculture" Zone to "Residential" purpose pertaining to Sy.No:257 extent of 02 Acre-20 Guntas and Sy.No:273 extent of 01 Acre-30 Guntas totally measuring 04 Acre-10 Guntas of Doddankanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Srirangapatna Taluk, Mandya District under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid lands are reserved for Agriculture zone in approved Master plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1. If this land is developed and layout formed, sites will be available at reasonable rates to General Public.
2. If this land is developed Job opportunities will be available to all sector of labourers.
3. If this land is developed, then the surrounding area will also get developed.
4. If the development of layout takes place, the public are benefited with the civic amenities such as good roads, UGD, electrical facilities and parks etc.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/-
Member Secretary,
B.M.I.C.A.P.A., Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/6102/SHIRDI SAI/2025-26

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India **BOI**
Head Office, IT(Governance & Excellence) Department, Star House-3, PNB-BOI Tower, C-29, G Block, 10th Floor, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai-400051.
E-mail: HOIT.G&E@bankofindia.bank.in

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR
Procurement of Desktops with 27-inch Monitors (Qty-80) for FEBO GIFT City at Gandhinagar & FEBO DR Site at Bullion Exchange Branch, Mumbai vide REF NO. HO:IT(G&E): FEBO:RFP: 1041: DATED 05-03-2026
GeM Bid No. GEM/2026/B/7324796 Dated 06-03-2026
The captioned RFP is available on Bank's corporate website **www.bankofindia.bank.in** under "Tender" section & GeM portal. Subsequent changes, if any, will henceforth be uploaded on the Bank's website & GeM portal. The last date of submission: 27-03-2026

कार्यालय नगर निगम, जोधपुर
पॉलीटेक्निक कॉलेज रेजीडेंसी रोड, जोधपुर ceo_nnj@rediffmail.com 02912651464
क्रमांक– विकास /जोन/तृतीय/2026–27/106 दिनांक– 27.02.2026

:: ई–निविदा सूचना संख्या ::
(UBN No. DLB2526WSOB36727)

नगर निगम जोधपुर की ओर से विभिन्न विकास कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन ई–निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। कार्य की विस्तृत जानकारी एवं शर्तें इत्यादि वेबसाईट **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**, **sppp.raj.nic.in** पर एवं जोधपुर नगर निगम की वेबसाईट **https://lsg.rajasthan.gov.in/mcj** देखी जा सकती है।

प्रशासक
नगर निगम, जोधपुर

आयुक्त
नगर निगम, जोधपुर

राज.संवाद/सी/25/21965

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ.
ನವನಗರ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ – 580 025.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 0836–2224048, 2224195, 2224301,2222616, 2224274, 2222505
ಕ್ರಮಾಂಕ: ಹು.ಧಾ.ನ.ಪ್ರಾ./ಲೆ.ವಿ./EP-FD/2025–26/6259 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.03.2026

E-Auction Notification

AUCTION FOR INVESTMENT OF SURPLUS FUNDS THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL OF GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

The details of the e-Auction can be had from there portal of the government of Karnataka at the address below **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

The eligible banks as per the criteria listed at Annexure-A who have not registered in the Karnataka public procurement portal may do so in order to participate in the bid.

The brief bid notification, the pre qualifying criteria listed at Annexure-A who have not registered in the Karnataka public procurement portal may do so in order to participate in the bid.

The brief bid notification the pre qualifying criteria for the bidders, Schedule of bid events and other details can be accessed from the Karnataka public procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka

Sl. No	Name of Auction	EMD Amount
1	E-Auction for Investment of surplus funds of HDUDA Fund-1, Auction Indent No. HDUDA/2025-26/AUCTION/474	25,000.00
2	E-Auction for Investment of surplus funds of HDUDA Fund-2, Auction Indent No. HDUDA/2025-26/AUCTION/475	25,000.00
3	E-Auction for Investment of surplus funds of HDUDA Fund-3, Auction Indent No. HDUDA/2025-26/AUCTION/476	25,000.00
4	E-Auction for Investment of surplus funds of HDUDA Fund-5, Auction Indent No. HDUDA/2025-26/AUCTION/477	25,000.00
5	E-Auction for Investment of surplus funds of HDUDA Fund-6, Auction Indent No. HDUDA/2025-26/AUCTION/478	25,000.00

Sl. No	Particulars	Date and Time
1	Date and Time to Confirm participation of Interest in Auction	13-03-2026 up to 16.00 PM
2	Auction Start Date	16-03-2026 up to 11.00 AM
3	Auction End Date	18-03-2026 up to 14.00 PM

Sd/- COMMISSIONER
Hubli-Dharwad Urban Development Authority
NAVANAGAR, HUBLI-25.

TIMES GLOBAL
THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026

IF YOU TELL A JOKE IN THE FOREST, BUT NOBODY LAUGHS, WAS IT A JOKE?
— STEVEN WRIGHT

WOMAN ARRESTED FOR FIRING SHOTS AT RIHANNA'S BEVERLY HILLS HOME, MOTIVE NOT KNOWN; NO INJURIES REPORTED

PAUL BETTANY ADDRESSES RUMOURS ABOUT PLAYING VOLDEMORT IN HBO'S HARRY POTTER SERIES: 'HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THAT'

Mojtaba, Khamenei's Mystery Heir, Named Supreme Leader

A Shadow Figure Coordinating Military And Intelligence Ops, He Was IRGC's Favoured Candidate

Iran named Mojtaba Khamenei, a son of the recently killed supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, as his father's successor, according to a statement from top clerics published on state media early on Monday, signalling the continuity of hard-line theocratic rule as Israeli and US airstrikes pound the country. Mojtaba Khamenei himself, though, is something of a mystery even within Iran.

Mojtaba has been an influential figure in the shadows of power, coordinating military and intelligence operations at his father's office. He is known to have very close ties to the powerful Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps and was considered their favoured candidate.

Unlike his father, Mojtaba, 56, carries the full religious credentials as an Ayatollah at the moment of his ascension. He was known for teaching popular Shia seminary classes. But his personality or politics outside of his father's tight inner circle are not known. He seldom speaks or appears in public. And now he will take the helm not just as Iran's new religious and political authority, but also as the commander in chief of its armed forces.

His candidacy may have been indirectly boosted by US President Donald Trump who criticised Mojtaba in an interview on Thursday and insisted that he be involved in selecting Iran's next leader. "They are wasting their time. Khamenei's son is a lightweight. I have to be involved in the appointment," Trump said.

Vali R Nasr, an expert on Iran and Shia Islam at Johns Hopkins University, said that Mojtaba would be a surprising choice, but a telling one. "The choice of Mojtaba is choice of continuity with his father, and also he is more ready than other candidates to quickly consolidate power and assert control over the system," said Nasr. He added that Mojtaba had been considered a successor for a long time; but for the past two years, he had seemed to have dropped off the radar.

Born in 1969 in Mashhad city, 10 years before the 1979 Islamic Revolution that would sweep Iran, Mojtaba grew up as his father agitated against Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. He attended the Alavi high school in Tehran, which educates the children of many officials in the Islamic republic. The younger Khamenei first joined the Revolutionary Guard around 1987 after finishing high school. He served during the latter period of Iran's war with Iraq that lasted till 1988.

Mojtaba went on to study with the country's most esteemed clerics in Qom and to teach in a religious seminary there himself, forging connections with the religious leadership and gaining esteem in their eyes, in part thanks to his father's position. Mojtaba married Zahra Haddad Adel, the daughter of a conservative Iranian politician, Gholam-Ali Haddad Adel. The marriage strengthened his relations within the country's conservative political establishment. His wife was killed in the strikes on Feb 28.

Mojtaba's own power rose alongside his father's, working within his offices in downtown Tehran. US diplomatic cables published by WikiLeaks in the late 2000s began referring to the younger Khamenei as "the power behind the robes." One recounted an allegation that Mojtaba actually tapped his own father's phone, served as his "principal gatekeeper" and had been forming his own power base within the country.

The US sanctioned him in 2019 during the first term of President Trump over working to "advance his father's destabilising regional ambitions and oppressive domestic objectives." That includes allegations that Mojtaba from behind the scenes supported the election of hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in 2005 and his disputed re-election in 2009 that sparked the Green Movement protests. Mahdi Karroubi, who was a presidential candidate in 2005 and 2009, denounced Mojtaba as "a master's son" and alleged he interfered in both votes. His father reportedly at the time said Mojtabawas "a master himself, not a master's son."

The late Ayatollah Khamenei had indicated to close advisers that he did not want his son to succeed him because he did not want the role to become hereditary, according to three senior Iranian officials familiar with Khamenei and the selection process. But Mojtaba's ascension suggests that those in Iran's circles of power had closed ranks at a time of acute crisis and war.

Mojtaba was selected by a group known as the Assembly of Experts, made up of 88 senior Shia clerics. During the deliberations, the majority of the senior clerics in the assembly pushed for Mojtaba's appointment, arguing that he had the qualifications needed to steer Iran in this moment, according to the officials.

Some clerics said that after the Ayatollah had been killed, choosing his son would honour his legacy. "Mojtaba is the wisest pick right now because he is intimately familiar with running and coordinating security and military apparatuses," Mehdi Rahmati, an analyst in Tehran, said. But Rahmati acknowledged that the appointment carries the risk of further polarising a population that is deeply divided, with many Iranians opposed to the Islamic republic's rule. NYT & AP

AP

AP

SHOW OF SUPPORT: A woman holds posters of Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei (R), the successor of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, during a rally in Tehran on Monday

Oppose targeting new leader: China

China said Monday that Iran's decision to name Mojtaba Khamenei as its new supreme leader was a domestic matter, and it opposed any attempt to target him. China's foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said Monday that Iran's decision was "based on its constitution". He added, "China opposes interference in other countries' internal affairs and Iran's sovereignty should be respected." AFP

Putin: Mojtaba has unwavering support

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday pledged "unwavering support" to Iran's new supreme leader, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei. "I would like to reaffirm our solidarity with our Iranian friends," Putin said. He added that "Russia has been and will remain a reliable partner" to Iran. "At a time when Iran is confronting aggression, your tenure will require great courage and dedication," he said. AFP

US Tomahawk hit naval base beside Iran school, shows video

Malachy Browne and John Ismay

A newly released video adds to the evidence that a US missile likely hit an Iranian elementary school where 175 people, many of them children, were reported killed.

The video, uploaded on Sunday by Iran's semiofficial Mehr News Agency and verified by NYT, shows a Tomahawk cruise missile striking a naval base beside the school in the town of Minab on Feb 28. The US military is the only force involved in the conflict that uses Tomahawk missiles.

A body of evidence assembled by the Times — including satellite imagery, social media posts and other verified videos — indicates that the Shajarah Tayyebeh elementary school building was severely damaged by a precision strike that occurred at the same time as attacks on the naval base. The base is operated by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard.

Asked by a reporter from the Times on Saturday if the US had bombed the school, President Donald Trump said: "No. In my opinion and based on what I've seen, that was done by Iran." He said, "They're very inaccurate, as you know, with their munitions." Defence secretary Pete Hegseth, who was standing beside Trump, said the Pentagon was investigating, "but the only side that targets civilians is Iran."

The video of the strike, which was first reported by the research collective Bellingcat, was independently verified by the Times. We compared features visible in the footage to new satellite imagery captured days after the strikes in Minab.

The video was filmed from a construction site opposite the base and shows a worn, dirt path across a grassy area and piles of debris also evident in recent satellite imagery, bolstering its credibility. The video also comports with other verified videos taken in the immediate aftermath of the strikes.

A Times analysis of the video shows the missile striking a building described as a medical clinic in the Revolutionary Guard base. Plumes of smoke and debris shoot out of the building after it is hit as the distant screams of onlookers are heard. As the camera pans to the right, large plumes of dust and smoke are already billowing from the area around the elementary school, suggesting that it had been struck shortly before the strike on the naval base. This is supported by a timeline of the strikes assembled by the Times that shows the school was hit around the time as the base.

Several other buildings inside the naval base were also hit by precision strikes in the attack, an analysis of satellite imagery showed. Determining precisely what happened has been impeded by the lack of visible weapons fragments and the inability of outside reporters to reach the scene.

The Times has identified the weapon seen in the new video as a Tomahawk cruise missile, a weapon that neither the Israeli military nor the Iranian military has. Dozens of Tomahawks have been launched by US navy warships into Iran since Feb 28, when the US-Israeli attack on Iran began. US Central Command said a video it released of several Tomahawks being launched from navy ships was filmed Feb 28, the day the Iranian base and school were hit. NYT

Reuters

A Feb 28 photo of rescue work at a school in Minab where 175 were killed

Gulf Energy Installations Hit

Manama: Iran launched fresh strikes on energy installations in the Gulf on Monday including a petroleum complex in Bahrain, as oil prices soared on fears over supply disruptions due to the war in West Asia.

Bahrain's sprawling Al Ma'ameer oil facility was hit, causing a fire and damage, with the country's state-owned energy firm Bapco declaring force majeure — the latest Gulf producer to activate the legal clause.

Energy producers in Qatar and Kuwait earlier made similar declarations, which are a warning that events beyond their control may lead them to miss export targets. Bapco said it "hereby serves notice of force majeure on its group operations which have been affected by the ongoing regional conflict in the Middle East and the recent attack on its refinery complex," according to a statement posted by the company.

Gulf countries have borne much of Tehran's response after the US and Israel launched a massive aerial campaign against Iran on Feb 28.

A total of 21 people have been killed in the Gulf since Iran began its attacks, including 10 civilians and seven US service members.

The latest strikes came after the US ordered embassy staff to leave Saudi Arabia, following a rash of attacks targeting the kingdom. The state department said in a travel advisory it had "ordered non-emergency US govt employees and their family members to leave Saudi Arabia due to safety risks".

On Monday, Bahrain said another Iranian drone attack on the island of Sitra had injured 32 people overnight. All of the wounded were Bahraini citizens and there were four "serious cases", said a statement carried by the state news agency.

Several explosions were also heard Monday in the Qatari capital Doha, AFP journalists said, as Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Kuwait all reported new attacks. Qatar's defence ministry said on Monday that its forces had intercepted a new missile attack. Saudi Arabia's defence ministry said the kingdom took down and destroyed two waves of drones heading towards the Shaybah oil field in the southeast of the country. In the UAE, authorities said in a statement on X that air defences responded to "a missile threat". Kuwait, which was targeted by seven missiles and five drones on Sunday according to authorities, announced another missile and drone attack on Monday. The defence ministry said air defences were working to intercept the attack. BLOOMBERG

Reuters

Smoke rises following a strike on the Bapco Oil Refinery in Bahrain

Indian injured in Iranian missile attack in Israel

Jerusalem: An Indian national in Israel was injured after shrapnel from an Iranian missile struck him in the neck, officials said on Monday. The man, who was injured on Sunday, underwent surgery at Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv and is now in stable condition. "He arrived yesterday in critical condition with a neck injury. The medical team at Ichilov fought to save his life, and he underwent a long surgery. Thankfully, he is now stabilising," a spokesperson for the hospital said. The Indian Embassy in Tel Aviv is monitoring the situation and visited the hospital to check on his well-being, officials said.

'No Indian fatality in Saudi'

There was no Indian fatality in the projectile incident that struck a residential compound in Saudi Arabia, the Indian Embassy in Riyadh said on Monday. It added that an Indian national injured in the incident on Sunday is undergoing treatment at a govt hospital. The embassy said it has been in touch with the concerned Saudi authorities regarding the matter. PTI

France to deploy dozen warships, mulling Hormuz mission: Macron

Paphos (Cyprus): France is deploying about a dozen naval vessels, including its aircraft carrier strike group, to the Mediterranean, Red Sea and potentially the Strait of Hormuz as part of support to allies threatened by the conflict.

Speaking in Cyprus before visiting the Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier, which arrived this weekend in the eastern Mediterranean, President Emmanuel Macron sought to reassure his Cypriot counterpart after drones were intercepted heading towards the island last week. "When Cyprus is attacked, then Europe is attacked," Macron said after meeting with President Nikos Christodoulides and Greek PM Kyriakos Mitsotakis in Paphos.

European states have been largely sidelined as the conflict has escalated, hitting Gulf Arab states and dragging Lebanon into the line of fire after Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah attacked Israel. But with shipping lanes in West Asia impacted and the price of oil heading well above $100 a barrel, European powers are grappling with the issue of how to defend their interests.

The European Union's main naval activities in the region centre on Aspides - Shields in Greek - a Red Sea naval mission launched in early 2024 to guard vessels from attack by Iranian-aligned Houthi militants backing Palestinian militant group Hamas in its war with Israel. "I will also add my voice to the rest of my European colleagues to reinforce the Aspides operation with more vessels," Mitsotakis said.

Macron, whose navy already provides one warship to that mission, said there would be two in total, but that in all France would deploy eight warships, the aircraft carrier group and two helicopter carriers to the region. That could ultimately include the Strait of Hormuz to support commercial vessels, Macron said.

"We are in the process of setting up a purely defensive, purely escort mission, which must be prepared together with both European and non-European states, and whose purpose is to reopen the Strait of Hormuz," Macron said, without elaborating. REUTERS

"When Cyprus is attacked, then Europe is attacked
EMMANUEL MACRON
France President

G7 nations hold off on oil stock release

G7 countries have not yet decided whether to release emergency oil reserves as prices surge above $119 a barrel due to the Iran war, France's finance minister said on Monday, adding that govts saw no immediate supply shortfall. "We are not there yet," Roland Lescure told reporters in Brussels after an online G7 meeting of finance ministers. "What we've agreed upon is to use any necessary tools if need be to stabilise the market, including the potential release of necessary stockpiles." REUTERS

Nato intercepts 2nd Iran missile in Turkish airspace

Ankara: Ankara on Monday said a second ballistic missile from Iran was shot down by Nato defence in Turkish airspace. Nato confirmed the incident, the second in Turkish airspace in five days, and stressed its readiness "to defend all allies against any threat".

Since the US-Israeli attacks began on Feb 28, Iran has retaliated with missile and drone strikes across West Asia in a bid to hit US assets. So far, Turkiye appears to have been spared, despite American troops being stationed at several of its bases, one of which is the Incirlik airbase which lies just outside the southern city of Adana.

But on Monday, the US embassy in Turkiye said it had closed its consulate in Adana and advised non-essential staff to leave. Barely an hour later, Turkiye's defence ministry confirmed another ballistic missile fired from Iran had been intercepted in Turkish airspace by Nato defence systems. AFP

US mulls special op to seize Iran's uranium

President Donald Trump is weighing the option of deploying special forces on the ground to seize Iran's near-bomb-grade uranium, as officials grow increasingly concerned the stockpile may have been moved, according to three diplomatic officials briefed on the matter.

The US and Israel struck key nuclear facilities during last June's 12-day war.

Uncertainty over Iran's highly enriched uranium has intensified because it's almost nine months since UN atomic inspectors last verified its location, the officials said. They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss restricted deliberations.

"They haven't been able to get to it and at some point, maybe we will," Trump said late on Saturday during a briefing aboard Air Force One. "We haven't gone after it, but it's something we can do later on. We wouldn't do it now."

Publicly, US officials have projected confidence that they know where the uranium is stored. Privately, there is said to be less certainty.

In the weeks before the strikes, monitors from the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency observed sustained activity outside tunnels built into a hillside near Isfahan, where the material was last documented before the fighting began.

That activity increases the likelihood that at least some of the 441 kilograms of highly enriched uranium stored at the complex was moved, said a diplomat in the Austrian capital familiar with the agency's assessments. The stockpile is sufficient for roughly a dozen nuclear warheads if further refined, with the US saying specifically 11 bombs. US and Israeli officials are actively searching for the highly enriched material and have contingency plans that include deploying special forces if its location is confirmed, one of the officials said. BLOOMBERG

Iran moving a lot of oil via Hormuz: Satellite tracker

Iran continues to send large amounts of crude oil via the Strait of Hormuz shipping chokepoint, according to TankerTrackers.com, a firm that monitors satellite imagery to observe vessel movements.

Tehran has sent at least 11 million to 12 million barrels through the waterway since the war began on Feb 28, Samir Madani, the firm's co founder said. The actual figure is likely to be higher but there are delays getting satellite feeds because of the conflict, he said. Oil prices soared on Monday as shipping has largely halted through Hormuz since the conflict started.

Tankertrackers.com inspects satellite imagery, so it's able to capture vessel movements that go undetected when ships turn off their digital transponders. BLOOMBERG

Aus helping some Iranian women footballers: Trump

Miami: US President Donald Trump said Monday that Australia had agreed to grant asylum to some of Iran's visiting women's football team, whose players refused to sing the national anthem while playing there and were labelled "wartime traitors" during the onging war in West Asia.

"I just spoke to PM Anthony Albanese, of Australia, concerning the Iranian National Women's Soccer Team. He's on it! Five have already been taken care of," Trump said on his Truth Social network, less than two hours after an initial post urging Australia to take them in. Trump added that "some, however, feel they must go back as they are worried about the safety of their families, including threats to those family members if they don't return."

Earlier, Trump said Australia was "making a terrible humanitarian mistake" by allowing Iran's national women's soccer team to be sent back home and called on Albanese to give asylum to team members. The Iranians' campaign in the Australian-hosted Asian Cup tournament started just as the US and Israel launched air strikes on Iran. The team was eliminated on Sunday. AGENCIES

Reuters

Some of Iran's women's football team players refused to sing the national anthem while playing in Australia & were labelled 'traitors'

Iran trying to hold world hostage with strikes: Rubio

Washington: US secretary of state Marco Rubio accused Iran of taking the world hostage. Addressing a state department event, Rubio said, "They are attacking neighbouring countries, their energy infrastructure, their civilians. The objective of this mission is to destroy their ability to do that.

Rubio was speaking at an event to honour "wrongfully detained" Americans. He was joined by family members of Robert Levinson, a former FBI agent who disappeared in 2007 on the Iranian island of Kish. The US said in 2020 that Iran was involved in his presumed death. Levinson was said to be on a mission to probe cigarette counterfeiting, although Washington Post reported that he had been working with the CIA and had gone rogue. AFP

An 'IS-inspired' attack on NYC mayor's residence

Federal prosecutors on Monday charged two men with attempting to support the Islamic State terror group after a homemade bomb was thrown near Gracie Mansion, the official residence of Mayor **Zohran Mamdani**, on Saturday. The men, Emir Balat and Ibrahim Kayumi, were arrested on Saturday night after they attempted to detonate two explosive devices, including one that tested positive for TATP, a highly volatile material used in numerous terrorist attacks over the last decade, according to a criminal complaint filed Monday in Manhattan federal court.

After they were arrested, both men made statements referring to IS, the complaint says. Balat said that they "wanted to carry out an attack bigger than the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, which Balat noted, caused only 'three deaths,'" according to the complaint. Balat also wrote on a piece a paper that he pledged allegiance "to the IS," the complaint says. And it adds that Kayumi told police that he had watched IS propaganda on his phone "and was partly inspired to carry out his actions that day by IS."

The New York police commissioner, Jessica S Tisch said that an analysis of two improvised explosive devices placed at a far-right protest on Saturday determined that one contained TATP. One device was thrown outside Gracie mansion as the protest unfolded. Mamdani said the devices "were meant to injure, maim or worse." But they did not detonate. It is the first time in nine years that an I.E.D. was used in an attack in NYC. Mamdani was not at Gracie during the demonstration. NYT

Anthropic sues US govt to block 'supply chain risk' tag

Anthropic is suing the Trump administration, asking federal courts to reverse the Pentagon's decision designating the artificial intelligence company a "supply chain risk " over its refusal to allow unrestricted military use of its technology.

Anthropic filed two lawsuits Monday, one in California federal court and another in the federal appeals court in Washington DC, each challenging different aspects of Pentagon's actions against the **Dario Amodei**-led company.

"These actions are unprecedented and unlawful," Anthropic's lawsuit says. "The Constitution does not allow govt to wield its enormous power to punish a company for its protected speech. No federal statute authorises the actions taken here. Anthropic turns to the judiciary as a last resort to vindicate its rights and halt the executive's unlawful campaign of retaliation."

The defence department declined to comment Monday. Anthropic said it sought to restrict its technology from being used for two high-level usages: mass surveillance of Americans and fully autonomous weapons. Defence secretary Pete Hegseth and other officials publicly insisted the company must accept "all lawful uses" of Claude and threatened punishment if Anthropic did not comply.

Designating the company a supply chain risk cuts off Anthropic's defence work using an authority that was designed to prevent foreign adversaries from harming national security systems. It was the first time the federal govt is known to have used the designation against a US firm. AP

SNAP SHOTS

Sindhu skips Swiss Open

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu will give the Swiss Open a miss as she recovers from the three-day ordeal in Dubai while HS Prannoy and Kidambi Srikanth will spearhead the Indian challenge at the $250,000 tournament starting in Basel on Tuesday. Sindhu had to withdraw from the All England Championships after being stranded in Dubai for three days. Srikanth will open against Jason Gunawan. Prannoy will take on Japan's Koki Watanabe. Ayush Shetty will take on Canada's Brian Yang.

SL rope in Kirsten: Sri Lanka have appointed South African Gary Kirsten as the head coach on a two-year contract as they begin preparations for the 2027 ODI World Cup, the country's cricket board said on Monday. Kirsten, 58, previously guided India to the 2011 World Cup title and later coached South Africa from 2011 to 2013. He also briefly served as Pakistan's white-ball coach in 2024, resigning six months into the job. He replaces Sanath Jayasuriya, who stepped down after Sri Lanka's disappointing campaign at the T20 World Cup.

WI, SA teams to leave today: The West Indies and South Africa cricket teams are scheduled to leave India for their home on Tuesday after being stuck in the country following their unsuccessful T20 World Cup campaigns due to travel restrictions owing to the West Asia conflict. West Indies have been stuck in Kolkata since losing to India in the Super Eight on March 1, while South Africa could not leave after defeat to New Zealand in the semifinal on March 4.

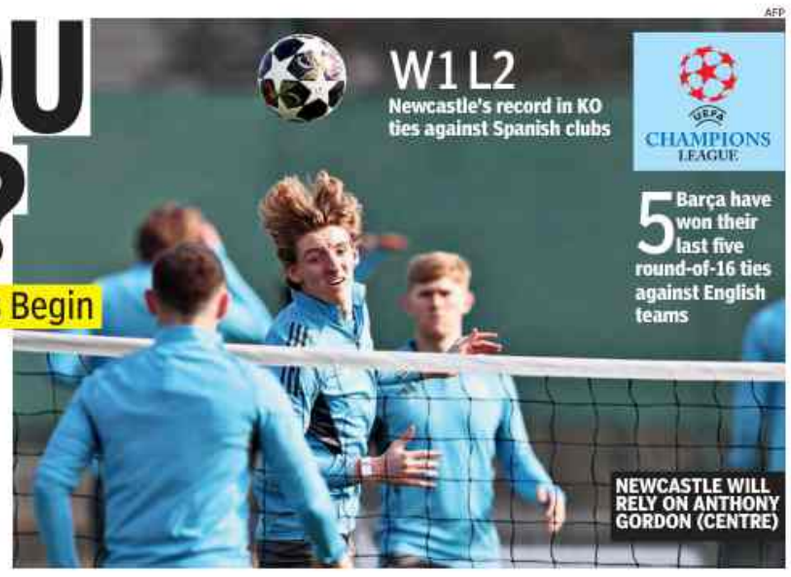
Punjab, NorthEast share spoils: Two second half goals saw Punjab FC hold NorthEast United FC to a 1-1 draw in their Indian Super League match in New Delhi on Monday. The result meant Punjab improved one spot to move up to eighth on the table with four points with a game in hand, while the Highlanders remained on 10th with three points after four games.
Result: Punjab FC 1 (Effiong 63) drew with NorthEast United FC 1 (Parthib 60).

Sharma ends tied 57th: India's Shubhankar Sharma carded a round of 2-over 72 on the final day of the Joburg Open and finished tied 57th in the tournament in Johannesburg. Dan Bradbury charged through the field on the final day to take the title with a card of 5-under 65 and a total score of 17-under par (64-70-64-65).

Verstappen to race in Nuerburgring 24 Hours: Four-times Formula One world champion Max Verstappen will compete in the 24 Hours of Nuerburgring in May with his own Mercedes GT3 sportscar team and Red Bull backing, they announced on Monday. The Dutch 28-year-old will share driving duties with Austrian Lucas Auer, Andorran Jules Gounon and Spaniard Daniel Juncadella in a Mercedes-AMG Team Verstappen Racing car carrying his familiar F1 number three.

HOWE DO YOU BEAT BARCA?

Newcastle Coach Eyes History As Rd-Of-16 Matches Begin



AFP

London: Eddie Howe has challenged Newcastle to produce the performance of a lifetime as they aim to win the "biggest game" in the club's history against Barcelona on Tuesday.

Howe's side will make only their second appearance in the Champions League last 16 when the Liga leaders arrive on Tyneside for a highly anticipated first leg clash. For the first time since 2002-03, when they reached the second group phase, Newcastle are one of the 16 clubs remaining in a Champions League campaign.

But having eased past Azerbaijani underdogs Qarabag in the play-off round, Howe knows Newcastle will have to make a significant step up in class to stun Hansi Flick's star-studded team.

"We've never been in this position in the Champions League before and it's the best competition there is, so for obvious reasons it's a massive game in our history," Howe said.

Newcastle famously beat Barca 3-2 thanks to a Faustino Asprilla hat-trick in the clubs' first Champions League meeting in 1997. That was the peak of the Magpies' brief spell as the Premier League's great entertainers.

Defeated by Barcelona in all four of their meetings since 1997 — including a 2-1 home loss in the group stage this season — Newcastle will have to defy the odds to give their fans more opportunities to serenade the heroes in Europe.

Reds go back to Galatasaray cauldron

Arne Slot's Liverpool head back to Istanbul, where they lost 1-0 to Turkish champions Galatasaray during the league phase. A deep run in the Champions League would be a major boost for Slot, who has come under fire from frustrated fans during Liverpool's slump. Significantly, German playmaker Florian Wirtz made his return from a back injury as a late substitute in Friday's FA Cup win against Wolverhampton Wanderers, while Slot played down concerns over Argentina midfielder Alexis Mac Allister after the World Cup winner limped off. Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson Becker was not part of the 21-man player squad that travelled to Turkey.

Contenders Bayern Munich face Atlanta

Bayern probably deserve to be considered among the leading three or four contenders to win the Champions League. Vincent Kompany's team head to Italy with an impressive domestic form and having won seven of eight games in the Champions League so far. Bayern striker Harry Kane is in ominous form with 45 goals in 37 games in all competitions this campaign. Atalanta had knocked out Dortmund in the last round.

Spurs face tough Atletico test

Tottenham go back to the Metropolitano, where they lost to Liverpool in the 2019 Champions League final. The current Spurs side is a shadow of Mauricio Pochettino's exciting team, and they find themselves in the strange position of still being involved in Europe and locked in an EPL relegation battle. A long way off the pace in La Liga, Diego Simeone's Atletico are fully focused on cup goals. AGENCIES

23 RED CARDS, POLICE INTERVENTION MAR BRAZILIAN CUP FINAL; CELTIC, RANGERS FANS IN PITCH BATTLE

Belo Horizonte: Twenty-three players were shown a red card as a lengthy brawl requiring the intervention of military police marred the final seconds of a Brazilian match between Cruzeiro and Atletico Mineiro.

Former Brazil forward Hulk was among the players sent off following the violence that lasted more than a minute. Cruzeiro had 12 sent off and Atletico 11. Cruzeiro won 1-0 in the Campeonato Mineiro final to become state champs in Minas Gerais.

Meanwhile, in Glasgow, the Scottish FA launched an investigation after Rangers and Celtic fans clashed in a "shameful" pitch battle that left police injured after Sunday's Scottish Cup quarters at Ibrox. Backed by 7,500 fans, Celtic won 4-2 on penalties. Dozens of Celtic fans invaded the pitch. That sparked an incursion from hundreds of Rangers fans, who attacked their rivals.

LAPORTA STOPPED MESSI BARCA RETURN, SAYS XAVI

Barcelona: Former Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez said the club's president Joan Laporta scuppered the return of all-time great Lionel Messi in 2023 to avoid a power struggle. "Leo was signed, in Jan 2023 after winning the World Cup, we got in touch and he told me he wanted to come back," Xavi told La Vanguardia. "We had the green light from La Liga (financially), but it was the president who threw it away... Laporta told me that if Leo came back he was going to wage war against him and that he couldn't allow that. Then Leo stopped answering my calls." Laporta suggested former coach Xavi was bitter and said Messi's agent-father Jorge had told him the superstar had decided not to come back.

Milan edge Inter in derby: AC Milan claimed a vital 1-0 home victory over city rivals Inter Milan with Pervis Estupinan's late first-half strike offering a glimmer of hope in the Serie A title race. Inter, on 67 points, have a 7-point gap over Milan.

India's fate hinges on Chinese Taipei match

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

India's fate in the AFC Women's Asian Cup hinges on their final group-stage encounter against Chinese Taipei at the Western Sydney Stadium in Sydney on Tuesday. Win by a margin of more than a goal and India will enter the last eight stage should favourites Japan, as expected, defeat Vietnam in the simultaneous kick-off. India can also scrape through as group C runners-up if they win by any margin but score at least twice.

Finishing third, with an inferior goal difference, is now not an option since Philippines and Uzbekistan are better placed in other groups.

India picked up a heavy 11-0 defeat against Japan in the previous match. While coach Amelia Valverde acknowledged the heavy blow that the former world champions dealt to their knock-out stage hopes, the Costa Rican remains eager to end the group stage on a high.

WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP

"Japan were too strong," said Valverde. "I think, even if we can put the version of ourselves that took the field against Vietnam, we can achieve our goals, which is to keep the ball, maintain possession, and create spaces. India have an advantage when it comes to speed."

India had a poor 45 minutes against Vietnam but appeared to turn the corner in the second half when they scored the equaliser, only to concede in the added time. Much will depend on the speed of Manisha Kalyan, the only player with experience of playing in European top tier and South America.

Against Vietnam, she came close to scoring from a freekick and corner kick, and provided glimpses of what she can do with the ball at her feet. The East Asian side need a point.

India rally, share points with Scotland

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Hyderabad: Scotland proved to be a tough nut to crack as India rallied from a goal down to draw the match 2-2 in the FIH women's World Cup hockey qualifier Pool B match here on Monday.

Despite the draw, India are at the top of the table with four points, ahead of Scotland on goal difference.

WC QUALIFIERS

While the visitors scored through McEwan Heather and Fiona Burnett in the sixth and 33 minutes, Naveet Kaur (18th minute) and Sunelita Toppo (29th minute) scored for India.

Heather deflected the ball from drag flicker Eadie Jennifer into the goalpost to put Scotland ahead. Navneet found the equaliser two minutes into the second quarter through a penalty corner. Though the trap was unsuccessful again, Kaur gained control of the ball and hit it into goal.

The visitors had a chance to go ahead in the seventh minute of the quarter after a penalty corner but goalkeeper Bichu Devi successfully thwarted it. India took the lead through a penalty corner on the brink of the quarter. Sunelita tapped the ball in from a deflection of Scotland's Katie Birch after a tussle in front of the post to give the hosts an advantage at the half-time.

Results: India (Navneet Kaur 18', Sunelieta Toppo 29') drew Scotland 2 (McEwan Heather 6', Fiona Burnet 33'). Italy 3 (Federica Bormida 19', Lola Brea 21', Eleonora Paola Di 45') bt Austria 0. England 3 (Lily Walker 16', Elizabeth Neal 38', Grace Balsdon 44') Korea 0. Uruguay 3 (Manuela Vilar 29', Agustina Diaz 36', Teresa Viana 41') bt Wales 2 (Anja Atkin 5', Rachel Goodwin 48').

Sinner to face Fonseca; Gauff retires

World number two Jannik Sinner took another step toward a first Indian Wells Masters title on Sunday, easing past Denis Shapovalov 6-3, 6-2 to reach the fourth round and a clash with exciting Brazilian teenager Joao Fonseca. After dropping just two games in his second-round opener against Czech qualifier Dalibor Svrcina, Sinner was caught napping to drop his serve in the opening game.

He responded with confidence against a potentially tricky opponent known for producing winners. Sinner quickly recouped the break and grabbed another in the eighth game.

Fonseca, who saved two match points in his second-round victory over Karen Khachanov, beat another seeded player, American Tommy Paul, 6-2, 6-3. Fourth-seeded German Alexander Zverev held off a determined Brandon Nakashima 7-6 (7/2), 5-7, 6-4. Frances Tiafoe beat Flavio Cobolli 6-1, 6-2 in a rematch of last week's final in Acapulco won by the Italian.

INDIAN WELLS

Meanwhile, among women, Coco Gauff retired from her third-round match with a "scary" left arm injury that "felt like it was on fire" but was optimistic she could sort out the problem in time to play in Miami. The 21-year-old world number four was trailing Alexandra Eala 6-2, 2-0 when the American called it a day, sending the rising star from the Philippines into the last 16.

Bhambri, Goransson advance

India's top doubles player Yuki Bhambri and his Swedish partner Andre Goransson had an easy day in the office, winning in straight sets against David Pel and Fabrice Martin. The unseeded Indo-Swedish pair won 6-1 6-3 as they broke the French-Dutch combo five times in the opening round.

Results (3rd round): Alexander Zverev (Ger x4) bt Brandon Nakashima (USA x28) 7-6 (7/2), 5-7, 6-4; Learner Tien (USA x25) bt Ben Shelton (USA x8) 7-6 (7/3), 4-6, 6-3; Alejandro Fokina (Esp x18) bt Jakub Mensik (Cze x12) 6-2, 4-6, 6-2; **Women:** Aryna Sabalenka (Blr x1) bt Jaqueline Cristian (Rom) 6-4, 6-1; Naomi Osaka (Jpn x16) bt Maria Camila Osorio (Col) 6-1, 3-6, 6-1; Linda Noskova (Cze x14) bt Sorana Cirstea (Rom) 6-7 (5/7), 6-4, 6-4; Jasmine Paolini (Ita x7) bt Ajla Tomljanovic (Aus) 7-5, 5-7, 6-1. AGENCIES

Tien's Journey Is A Study In Ambition, Resilience And Talent, The 20-Year-Old Left-Hander Is Poised To Challenge The Game's Established Order

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Michael Chang's eyes are glued to the optic-yellow felt ball, following its trajectory, moving from corner to corner. He plays every point with **Learner Tien**, his 20-year-old protege, the youngest player in the world's top 30.

Tien is part of a rising trio that includes 19-year-old Joao Fonseca and 20-year-old Jakub Mensik, all ranked inside the top 40 and pushing to challenge the Sinner-Alcaraz duopoly. Tien, a gifted left-hander, underlined his emergence again on Sunday at Indian Wells, beating the world No. 8 Ben Shelton to reach the Masters 1000 fourth round.

Last year was Tien's breakout season. He began the year ranked 122 and played his way through the qualifying draw at Melbourne Park before rallying from two-sets down to stun the then world No. 5 Daniil Medvedev in the second round. In February, he claimed another marquee scalp, defeating world No. 2 Alexander Zverev in Acapulco.

TENNIS

While the clay and grass swings brought modest returns, Tien surged again in the autumn, reaching the final of the ATP 500 in Beijing, beating Medvedev again, this time in the semi finals. He capped the season with his first Tour-level title in Metz, underlining his rapid ascent.

The Tour's fresh face a year ago, now carries a target on his back.

"That aspect of tennis is great, to play a lot of the same guys over and over again, you are both adjusting," Tien said. "I have only played a handful of guys multiple times, so I think this coming year, I'll play a lot more guys for the second, third time, and I think it'll make me a lot better. I'll have to consistently adapt, as guys get to know me better and better."

Learner schools the competition

Getty Images

LEARNING CURVE

- Broke into Top-200 in August 2024, Top-100 in January 2025 and Top-50 in August 2025.
- Captured first ATP Tour title at 2025 Metz, becoming youngest American ATP Tour champion since Roddick, 19, at 2002 Houston.
- Upset No. 5 Medvedev en route to 2025 Australian Open 4R to be youngest man to defeat a Top-5 player at that event in ATP Rankings history (since 1973).
- Defeated countryman (No 10) Ben Shelton at 2025 Mallorca to become youngest American man to record a Top-10 win on grass in ATP rankings history (since 1973).

Chang, who has been working with Tien since August, stressed on growth.

"It's a matter of continuing to improve. So, each time he plays another player, whether he has won or not, he's a better player. That's a good mentality to have," said Chang, who, as the youngest man ever to win a singles major at just 17, is well versed with breakout success stories.

Michael Chang

Chang describes Tien as an exceptional talent and tireless worker, highlighting the young American's hunger to succeed.

The duo, who live just 20 minutes apart in California, share more than geography. Beyond the parallel biographies of being sons of immigrants, they are bound by similar drive, discipline and an understated intensity. Tien's parents, Khuong Dan, a real estate lawyer, and Huyen, a maths teacher, arrived in the United States as refugees from Vietnam. He was coached primarily by his father until age 11, when he entered the USTA's player development programme.

Even his name reflects the family's story. Learner is a tribute to his mother's life in education, while his sister, Justice, nods to their father's career in law.

"Our locations make things easy, we could talk about things in Orange County, and he knows what I'm talking about," Chang, 54, said. "There are more commonalities than what I initially thought we had, including success as a junior. I was joking with him after Metz, that I won my first pro title, in my last tournament of my rookie year too!"

Chang, married to former tennis player Amber Liu, has three children.

"There are differences, he's lefty," Chang says. "He's more gifted than I am as a shot maker, he's much better around various parts of the court. Learner is cerebral, he's a thinker, which is very similar to how my mind works."

Tien deflects the "third factor" narrative, saying his focus doesn't stretch that far ahead.

"I'm young, and I'm far from a fully complete player, there's a lot of little things that I have to improve," the youngster said. "And one day, if I find myself in that conversation, I think it's great, but it's not in the forefront of my mind right now."

Tien has faced Sinner only once, in last year's Beijing final, and is yet to play Alcaraz.

"I don't think Learner is that far off from being able to compete with those guys at the highest level," Chang said. "As coach I have that belief in him."

For now, the labels, breakout star, disruptor, third force, can wait. Tien is still building, still learning, still testing the outer limits of his game. Last year he arrived. This year, he must prove he belongs.

Rachitha, Niki shine

Karnataka recovered from their six-wicket loss to Madhya Pradesh over the weekend to register a 234-run victory against Chhattisgarh in the BCCI Women's U-23 One Day Trophy. In Jaipur on Monday, opener Rachitha Hatwar (92) and **Niki Prasad** (123; 91b; 17x4; 3x6) laid the platform for the big win.

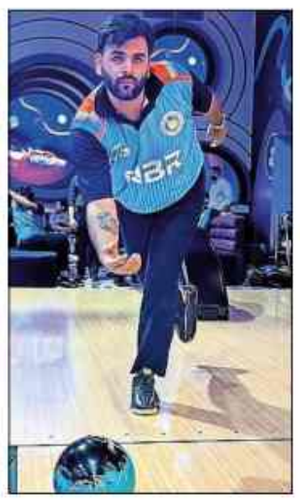
Opting to bat, Karnataka lost Krishika Reddy early, but Niki and Rachitha combined for a 185-run second-wicket stand off 164 deliveries.

U-23 ONE DAY

Skipper Chandasi K joined the party with a half-century (53). After a shaky start, Chhattisgarh batters failed to convert starts and folded up for 127 in 35 overs. For Karnataka, Vandita Rao returned 4/17, while Pooja Kumari accounted for two wickets. **Brief scores: Karnataka: 361/7 in 50 overs** (Rachitha Hatwar 92, Niki Prasad 123, Chandasi Krishnamurthy 53, Shreya Chavan 35 n.o; Sakshi Shukla 2-45, Rishika Shrivastava 2-61, Radhika Netam 2-45) **bt Chhattisgarh: 127 in 35 overs** (Aishwarya Singh 32, Kumud Sahu 27; Pooja Kumari 2-16, Vandita Rao 4-17). TNN

Karnataka's Sahil hits the front

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



Bengaluru: Karnataka players made the most of the home advantage as three of them took an early lead. Youngster **Sahil Punjabi** led the way at the end of the first three squads of block 1 in the opening round of the National Tenpin Bowling Championships here on Monday.

TENPIN NATIONALS

Sahil (1216 pins) was followed by Surendra Babu (1204) and defending champion Akaash Ashok Kumar (1196). Playing in long oil condition, Sahil started with a score of 186 in Game 1.

In his second game, after a spare in the first frame, he delivered 11 consecutive strikes to post a total of 290. He then carried the momentum into the next three games, scoring 193, 204 and 182 respectively before faltering in the last game with a score of 161. Sahil's father, the seasoned Vijay Punjabi, was placed ninth.

Leaderboard: Sahil Punjabi (Kar) 1216 pins (average 202.67), Surendra Babu (Kar) 1204 (200.67), Akaash Ashok Kumar (Kar) 1196 (199.33), Ganesh NT (TN) 1191 (198.50), Parthiban J (TN) 1180 (196.67), Shanmuganada (Kar) 1173 (195.50), Kishan R (Kar) 1168 (194.67), Ankit JG (Guj) – 1164 (194), Vijay Punjabi (Kar) 1156 (192.67), Sohan D (TN) 1141 (190.17).

RIS pull off a thriller

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: In a match that went down to the wire, Railway Institute South, Hubbali, pulled off a two-run win against NR Sports Group in the KSCA Group I (II division) league-cum-knockout tournament here recently.

Invited to bat, RIS were precariously placed at 34/2 when Madhava Dharwadkar (71) and skipper Suraj Ahuja (61) joined forces. The duo's 80-ball 128-run partnership for the third wicket was the highlight of the innings apart from opener Chethan LR's 9-ball 22. For the bowling side, medium pacer Venkatesh M returned 2 for 33.

In reply, NR Sports were in the chase until the last ball, and fell short by two runs. Gowtham Sagar was their standout batter with a 42-ball 77 (3x4; 7x6), while Venkatesh and Madhav chipped in 31 runs each. Sanjay Sihag and Prithviraj picked up two wickets apiece for the winners. In another match, a three-wicket haul from left-arm pacer **Arvind Sreenath** and a fine batting show from Prakhar Chaturvedi (66) and Pavan Deshpande (41 n.o) powered State Bank of India to a six-wicket win over KPTCL Sports Organisation. **Brief scores: RIS, Hubballi: 194/6 in 20** overs (Madhava Dharwadkar 79, Suraj Ahuja 61, Venkatesh M 2-33) **bt NR SG: 192/7 in 20 overs** (Gowtham 77, Venkatesh M 31, Madhav Bajaj 31; Sanjay Sihag 2-20, Prithviraj 2-31). **KPTCL: 168/4 in 20 overs** (Raghavendra Badiger 35, S Rajashekar 75; Arvind Sreenath 3-21) **lost to SBI: 171/4 in 18.4 overs** (Prakhar Chaturvedi 66, Pavan Deshpande 41 n.o). **Dell: 171/6 in 20 overs** (Vinay Radha 32, Sachin Gankal 30, Dhanu 32 n.o; Suresh Karani 2-31) **lost to Central Excise: 172/6 in 19.3 overs** (Rohan RR 54, Samarth R 43, Thippa Reddy 35 n.o, Rajesh 2-27, Aevant Khothari 2-29).

Walking Thunder for main event

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: Walking Thunder (Ajeeth Kumar astride) is fancied to win the Common Land Plate over 1200 metres, the main event at the races on Tuesday. First race at 3.30 pm.

1. Sir Bruce Plate 1400M: Lego 1, NRI Star 2; **2. Jangaon Plate 1200M:** Saranga 1, Malwish 2

3. Aberader Plate 1100M: Greif 1, Clarity 2; **4. Crown Treasure Plate 1400M:** Knight Regent 1, Corte Madera 2; **5. Srisailam Plate 1200M:** Master Class 1, Modin 2.

6. Common Land Plate 1200M: Walking Thunder 1, Cherie Chevalier 2.

7. Saroornager Plate 1200M: Exclusive Luck 1, Aashritha Pet 2. **1st Jackpot:** 2, 3, 4, 6, & 7; **1st Treble:** 2, 3, & 4.

ESPIONAGE PREVAILS

Espionage , from the stables of Donald Netto, and ridden by Kuldeep Singh won the Attractress Plate, the feature event of the races here on Monday.

Five-star Chandrashekar shines for ITC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Chandrashekar R (5/21) powered ITC Sports Club to a five-wicket win over ABB Cricket Club in the KSCA Group II (Div II) league-cum-knockout tournament here recently.

Put in to bat, ABB were 32/5 inside seven overs. Chandrashekar then ran through the lower order and ABB were reduced to 66/9. But BM Lohith (49) and Raghuram put up a fighting 53-run tenth-wicket stand to take the total to 119 runs.

In the chase, openers Vinayaka Murthy (42) and Kishore Dutt (33) led ITC's charge, who reached the target in the 14th over. Mallana Gouda (3/28) was the pick of the bowlers for ABB.

Brief scores: ABB: 119 in 20 overs (BM Lohith 49; Nishanth Gopal 2-9, HM Kumara 2-28, Chandrashekar R 5-21) **lost to ITC: 120/5 in 13.4 overs** (Vinayaka Murthy 42, Kishore Dutt 33; Mallana Gouda 3-28).
Bosch SC, B'luru: 208/6 in 20 overs (Samarth Srinivas 84, Sriranganatha Rao 86; Mohith L 2-35, Dilip Singh 2-26) **bt BEML (2) SC, Mysuru: 149/7 in 20 overs** (Aadesh Urs 33; Geeth Netala 2-15, Naresh S 2-23). **BEL: 213/3 in 20 overs** (Harshit Pai 51, Anirudh Srinivas 28, Barath C 51 n.o, Shivu M 62 n.o) **bt Secretariat CC: 130/6 in 20 overs** (Arya Gowda 31; Shivu M 2-19, Ashok Kumar 2-39, Raghunandan H 2-23). **Bosch SC, Naganathapura: 159/6 in 20 overs** (Satish Kumar 33, Pankaj Gowda 56, Chethan Kumar 28, M Shankar 3-27) **lost to BBMP: 161/2 in 16.5 overs** (Nagarjun TM 52 n.o, Tahir Hussain 44, S Shylesh 57 n.o).
Advocate Assn: 191/4 in 20 overs (R Jagadish 74 n.o, Jagadeesha K 46 n.o) **bt SWR, B'luru: 126/8 in 20 overs** (Vinod Kumar 42; Shreyas Kumar 2-14).
LIC: 205/6 in 20 overs (Abhin SP 55, Neeraj 70, Santosh S 25, Karan U 29; KK Kantesh 3-44) **bt BEML KGF: 124 in 19.4 overs** (Dhinesh K 32; Neeraj 3-16, OG Lokya Naik 2-17, Kiran M 3-20).
VISL, Bhadravathi: 192/4 in 20 overs (Gagan D 70, Shreyank Sagar 68 n.o; Yashwantha 2-23) **bt B'luru Telephone: 96/9 in 20 overs** (Rakshith K 31; Yogi 3-25, Shreyank Sagar 3-17). **BWSSB: 189/9 in 18.2 overs** (CR Kumarswamy 55, Adarsh MA 51, Ayush Ponnappa 28; Vineeth Manjunath 2-42, Gopi K 2-31, Harsh Oza 2-28, Basavaraja R 2-19) **bt BEML RC: 144 in 19.4 overs** (Sandeep T 53; Sampath Kumar M 2-18, Ayush Ponnappa 2-21). **L & T: 101 in 17.4 overs** (Nikhil Vedanth 41; Ajay Bhide 4-10, Rishav Rawat 2-18, Raghavendra HS 4-19) **lost to Infosys: 102/1 in 9.5 overs** (Arjun Potti 33 n.o, Swaroop SH 60 n.o). **Commercial Tax: 135/6 in 20 overs** (Aries KA 25, Kushaal Wadhwani 34 n.o; Shridhar Jagatap 2-18, Ajmath Ali 3-29) **lost to Hutti Mines: 138/4 in 16.3 overs** (Sulthan Baba 40, Shridhar Jagatap 77 n.o; Yogananda CK 2-29). **Postal: 202/7 in 20 overs** (Shivaraj R 27, Kishore Naik 49, J Koushik 52 n.o; Ganesha Banagara 3-27) **bt UBI: 80 in 13 overs** (Akash LN 2-8, Jayanth 4-15). **CIL: 54 in 17.5 overs** (Ashwani Mishra 3-14, MK Hemesh 2-16, Tushar Chaudhary 2-10) **lost to IAF, Yelahanka:** 55/1 in 6.2 overs (Kushal Keshav 31 n.o).
SRI, Mysuru: 161/4 in 20 overs (Surendra Rathore 68, Yashwanth J 53 n.o, Dhananjaya S 26) **bt CMTI: 50 in 12 overs** (Dhakshath P 3-9, Raghavendra V 3-16).

Hockey trials

Bengaluru: Hockey Karnataka will conduct trials to pick the state sub-junior men's and women's teams for the National Championship to be held in April. The trials will be held on March 16 (women) and 17 (men) at the hockey stadium in Bengaluru from 9.30 am. Players born on or after Jan 1, 2010 are eligible. TNN

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ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP

TIMES SPORT | THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU
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"THE WICKET WAS FLAT, I HAD TO USE ALL MY EXPERIENCE. EARLIER, I WAS IN A ZONE WHERE I FELT I WAS TRYING TOO HARD. IN THIS TOURNAMENT I JUST TRIED TO LET THE GAME COME TO ME."
—Jasprit Bumrah | INDIA PACER

TOI's Team of the Tournament

After India's emphatic win over New Zealand in the final, the spotlight now turns to the tournament's standout performers. **TOI**'s team reflects India's dominance, with as many as four players in our XI. The picks were based solely on those who contributed in a big fashion throughout the World Cup. World Cup-winning captain Suryakumar Yadav, unfortunately, misses out...

Sahibzada Farhan (Pakistan)
The tournament's highest run-getter. Became the first batsman to score two centuries in a single edition of the T20 World Cup. Even surpassed Virat Kohli's 2014 record of most runs in a single edition of the Cup.

Inns: 5	Runs: 383	SR: 160.2	Ave: 76.6	100s/50s: 2/2

Sanju Samson (India) (c & wk)
Walks in. Played just five matches and still finished as player of the tournament. The Indian top-order's struggles against off-spin opened the door for him. Three successive, career-defining knocks in the knockout stages turned him into one of the central figures of the title run. Set a new record for the most sixes (24) in a single edition. Has captaincy experience too.

Inns: 5	Runs: 321	SR: 199.3	Ave: 80.2	50s: 3

Ishan Kishan (India)
Obvious choice. Hammered brisk half-centuries in the group stages against Namibia and Pakistan while opening. The 77 off 40 against Pakistan was one of the best knocks. Was shifted to No. 3 yet managed to deliver high-impact innings through the business end. Scored a 25-ball 54 in the final.

Inns: 9	Runs: 317	SR: 193.3	Ave: 35.2	50s: 3

Jacob Bethell (England)
Left-handed phenomenon produced a string of bold, counter-attacking innings. Standout moment was the 48-ball 105 while chasing a tall total against India. Also got England out of jail against Nepal.

Inns: 8	Runs: 280	SR: 152.2	Ave: 35	100s/50s: 1/1

Shimron Hetmyer (West Indies)
Provides acceleration in the middle overs. Can tear through spin. Smashed 85 off 34 balls against Zimbabwe and 64 off 36 against Scotland. Cameos against England and India also stood out. Hit 15 sixes against spinners, the most.

Inns: 7	Runs: 248	SR: 186.5	Ave: 41.3	50s: 2

Hardik Pandya (India)
Two players in one. With the ball, shouldered heavy workload at the death, sending down 8 overs between the 17th and 20th, the joint most. Was equally effective with the new ball, bowling 10 overs in the Powerplay. Hammered 114 runs in the death overs, the second-highest in that phase. Scored a rapid 27 off 12 balls before and took 2/38 to keep England at bay.

Inns: 9	Runs: 217	SR: 160.7	Ave: 27.1
50s: 2	Wkts: 9	ER: 8.8	

Will Jacks (England)
Delivered a string of match-winning, late-innings assaults — unbeaten 39 off 18 against Nepal. Blistering 53* off 22 vs Italy. Nerveless 32* off 18 in a dramatic win over New Zealand. His crafty off-spin proved equally valuable. His match-turning 3/22 knocked Sri Lanka off course in the Super 8s.

Inns: 8	Runs: 226	SR: 176.5	Ave: 56.5
50s: 1	Wkts: 9	ER: 9.7	

Jason Holder (West Indies)
Gets in ahead of Shivam Dube. Dismantled Scotland with figures of 3/30. Followed it up with 4/27 against Nepal. Launched a late surge with a 33 off 17 against England. The composed 49 off 31 against South Africa and 37 not out off 22 balls against India also stood out.

Matches: 7	Wkts: 10	ER: 8.8	Runs: 141
SR: 174	Ave: 35.2		

Adil Rashid (England)
The obvious spin choice. Figures of 2/16 even as the West Indies surged to 196 at the Wankhede stood out. Was equally effective during the Super 8s in Sri Lanka, exploiting the spin-friendly surfaces. Took 2/41 against India in the semis as other bowlers were taken to the cleaners.

Matches: 8	Wkts: 13	ER: 8.1	Ave: 19.23	SR: 14.1

Lungi Ngidi (South Africa)
The 'mystery' pacer, if ever there was one. Set the tone early with a four-wicket haul against Canada. Followed it up with a 3/26 in the dramatic 187-all contest against Afghanistan. The 3/30 against Windies was impressive. Delivered four overs of masterful change-of-pace bowling, using his slower balls to choke India in the Super 8s.

Matches: 7	Wkts: 12	ER: 7.1	Ave: 15.6	SR: 13

Jasprit Bumrah (India)
The genius in the mix. India's cheat code. Makes the opposition feel they have only 16 scoring overs. Stood out even in the losing cause against South Africa with figures of 3/15 despite the opposition posting 187. Saved his best for last, taking 4/15 to dismantle New Zealand in the final. Economy rate in Powerplay 5.9, through the middle overs 6.3 and 6.6 at the death! Truly amazing stuff.

Matches: 8	Wkts: 14	ER: 6.2	Ave: 12.4	SR: 12

12th man: Finn Allen (New Zealand)
Gave New Zealand flying starts at the top of the order. Alongside Tim Seifert, formed a high-octane pair. The 100 not out off just 33 balls against South Africa in the semifinal was the fastest century in T20 World Cup history.

Inns: 8	Runs: 298	SR: 200	Ave: 49.6	100s/50s: 1/1

—Text: **Hindol Basu**

FOUR INDIANS IN ICC'S TEAM OF THE TOURNAMENT

Jasprit Bumrah, Sanju Samson, Ishan Kishan and Hardik Pandya were the four Indians named in ICC's team of T20 World Cup. South Africa's Aiden Markram was named the captain.

ICC Men's T20 World Cup team of the tournament: Sahibzada Farhan, Sanju Samson (wk), Ishan Kishan, Aiden Markram (c), Hardik Pandya, Will Jacks, Jason Holder, Jasprit Bumrah, Lungi Ngidi, Adil Rashid, Blessing Muzarabani. **12th man:** Shadley van Schalkwyk.

CLASS OF 2026: Gautam Gambhir and Indian cricket team members with the World Cup trophy

daCunha/AB/1087

'MILESTONES DON'T MATTER, TROPHIES DO'

HEAD COACH GAUTAM GAMBHIR SAYS CULTURE OF CELEBRATING INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS SHOULD NOT DEFINE INDIAN CRICKET ANY LONGER...

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Ahmedabad: With the 2026 T20 World Cup trophy beside him and captain Suryakumar Yadav at his side, India head coach Gautam Gambhir finally allowed himself a rare smile on Sunday night.

After all, his team had just crushed New Zealand by 96 runs in the most one-sided T20 World Cup final ever. Even amid the celebrations, though, Gambhir made it clear what he believes should shape Indian cricket during his tenure. Individual milestones, he said, will never take precedence over team success as long as he is in charge.

"My simple philosophy with Surya has always been that milestones don't matter. Trophies matter," Gambhir said. "For too long in Indian cricket we've spoken about milestones. I hope that till I'm here, we're not going to talk about milestones. Stop celebrating milestones and celebrate trophies."

India's emphatic win made them the first team to win three T20 World Cups (2007, 2024, 2026), the first to defend the title and the first host nation to lift the trophy. Reinforcing his point, Gambhir cited Sanju Samson's fearless batting in the knockout games. "You saw what Sanju did in the last three matches. Imagine, if he was playing for milestones maybe we wouldn't have got to 250. That's the mindset needed in team sport."

'High-risk, high-reward'

Gambhir said India's approach in the tournament was simple: attack from ball one to ball 120. "The plan was simple — high risk, high reward," he said. "If you start fearing defeat, you will never win. I told the captain we won't play for scores like 160-170. I'd rather accept getting bowled out for 100 because totals of 150-160 take you nowhere in T20 cricket."

> **Scoring personal runs has never mattered to me. I've been very fortunate that Suryakumar Yadav and I were on the same page on this front. All of them in the dressing room bought into this mindset. The only way you can hit the big totals is when you're putting your team ahead. Everyone in that dressing room put the team ahead of himself, and that is why we could achieve something like this."**
> —Gautam Gambhir | HEAD COACH

The philosophy was evident as India smashed 250-plus totals in both the semifinal and the final.

'Social media doesn't matter'

Gambhir also dismissed outside noise, insisting his accountability lies only with the players in the dressing room. "My accountability is not towards social media. It is towards those 30 people sitting in the dressing room. Even if I win two ICC trophies as a coach, that doesn't matter. Those 30 people matter the most during my tenure."

Tribute to Dravid, Laxman

The former opener, who became the first Indian to win the T20 World Cup both as player and coach, dedicated the triumph to Rahul Dravid and VVS Laxman. "What Rahul *bhai* did for Indian cricket during his tenure deserves huge respect. And VVS Laxman has done tremendous work behind the scenes at the Centre of Excellence, which remains the pipeline for our cricket."

Gambhir admitted he had little head-coaching experience before taking over the role, having previously mentored IPL sides Lucknow Super Giants and Kolkata Knight Riders. "When I was given this job, I didn't have experience as a head coach. For the BCCI to trust me with this responsibility means a lot," he said.

Why team backed Abishek, Samson

Coach Says He Picks Players On 'Trust & Faith, Not Hope'

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Ahmedabad: Gautam Gambhir said he picked India's T20 side on "trust and faith" and backed Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma despite poor form. The opening duo played important roles in the final. Maybe struggling 'mystery spinner' Varun Chakravarthy, who did not come good, can also be added to the list.

Before the final, Abhishek had put together just 89 runs in seven matches at 12.71, including three ducks.

However, the left-hander rediscovered his destructive touch in the final, smashing an 18-ball half-century, the fastest of this World Cup.

Gambhir also showed faith in Samson, recalling him even though the 'keeper-batter had scored just 46 runs in a five-match T20I series against the Kiwis a week before the World Cup. Samson hit three match-winning half-centuries on the trot, first the 50-ball 97 not out against West Indies at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata and then knocks of 89 off 42 balls in the semis against England and 89 off 46 balls in the final.

"I think you pick the team on trust and faith. You don't pick on hope. When you pick someone on trust and faith, you don't lose that trust and faith after four, five games," he said.

Gambhir said Samson was given a break for a few matches. "It was a tactical change," the coach said. "The captain and I never felt Sanju was out of form. We felt that after the NZ series, he needed a break.

"Sometimes, it's good to give someone a break. You want to get away from the pressure, clear your head and come back. The talent that Sanju has and the way he was batting in the nets, there was no doubt he'd deliver," added Gambhir.

> **I love Gautam Gambhir the T20 coach. His first statement was that there is no need for a batting order in white-ball cricket. Maybe that was taken far out of context. In T20 cricket, you do not need a batting order. He is right. He gets the pulse of the T20 game."**
> —R Ashwin

> **Totally deserving and rightful winners of the trophy. What a fantastic performance by our team and a special brand of cricket on display!"**
> —Sachin Tendulkar

> **Coach 'sahab', smile looks great on you. Intensity with smile is a killer combo, very well done. It's better if I don't write anything on Bumrah. Champion bowler!"**
> —MS Dhoni

ALL SMILES... Ishan Kishan joins in as photographers focus on Suryakumar Yadav on Sunday

Emotional Ishan dedicates triumph to late cousin

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Ahmedabad: For Ishan Kishan, India's World Cup victory New Zealand was about far more than celebrations. The explosive left-hander, who smashed 54 off 25 balls in the final, revealed that he had lost his cousin in a car accident a day before the final.

"I was not planning to say this, but I lost my cousin yesterday (Saturday) in a car accident. I got to know during the practice session," Kishan said, "She always wanted me to score big runs. Today was a big day and I thought the best thing I could do was score runs for her. That's why I looked up after reaching my fifty — it was for my sister."

"I wasn't feeling well mentally, but Hardik-*bhai*. He told me it wouldn't be easy but said that we have to lift each other for the team's cause," Kishan said, "I had that anger to perform.

Kishan said he had changed his mindset over the past year by focusing only on things within his control. "I've stopped overthinking," he admitted.

OLYMPIC GOLD NEXT TARGET FOR SURYAKUMAR

Ahmedabad: Having led India to a T20 World Cup title, Suryakumar Yadav is now targetting the 2028 LA Olympics. "The next goal is the Olympics — Olympic gold. And also the T20 World Cup, don't forget," the Indian captain said.

The year 2028 promises to be significant for T20 cricket, with the Olympic Games in Los Angeles scheduled for August followed by the next T20 World Cup later that year. Surya hopes to bow out with an Olympic gold medal and lead India as defending champions in the World Cup.

Surya said his own difficult phase last year reinforced an important lesson about sport. "You will fail more times than you succeed in sport. In 2025 I had a tough year. I couldn't get a fifty for a long time. But ups and downs are part of the game. You have to respect the game and be true to yourself. You can't cheat the man in the mirror."
—Gaurav.Gupta@timesofindia.com

'Minute adjustments' help Samson take giant strides

The Game Changed Completely For Us When We Got Him Back: Surya

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Ahmedabad: There have been subtle changes for the better in Sanju Samson's game. The T20 World Cup's player of the tournament now has a remarkable steadiness when he plays his shots or is charging the bowler. The fidgety, twitchy version of Samson we saw earlier is gone.

The changes can be attributed to the lean run prior to the World Cup in the T20I series against New Zealand, which led to his omission from the squad and prompted serious introspection.

With opposition teams targeting India with off-spin early in the Powerplay to neutralise left-hander Abhishek Sharma's power hitting, and with Rinku Singh being under-utilised down the order, India rejigged their lineup and brought in Sanju.

Suddenly, the pieces seemed to fit and India had the perfect batting order for the occasion. Samson smashed three crucial, consecutive half-centuries, was India's leading scorer with 321 runs from five innings and has probably hit upon the kind of consistency which eluded him for long periods of his career.

Pix: AFP, Getty Images, PTI

TOLD YOU SO! India coach Gambhir says he knew Samson would deliver

Now, Samson is also the leading Indian run-scorer in a single edition of the T20 World Cup.

"As soon as we brought him (back), the game changed completely (for us)," captain Suryakumar Yadav said.

"He started batting differently. That was a positive call for him. I saw him working very hard. When someone doesn't play, what he does (outside the playing field) is more important. He did everything he could for the team when he was not playing. The last three to four innings he has batted for the team, it is a result of all the hard work he has put in," said Surya, highlighting the hard yards in the nets by the opener.

One of Samson's earliest coaches, Biju George, told **TOI**, "Every batsman over a long tournament brings in minute adjustments. He just kept faith in his ability and backed himself. He kept hitting straight and strong."

Sanju's batting now has the distinct clarity it lacked earlier. New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner said Samson had changed his approach from the bilateral series earlier.

"Unfortunate for us, he was saving his runs for the World Cup. In a few of those games, he looked like he was trying to hit from ball one. Now, he gave himself a chance, gave himself a few balls. On these wickets, when you're in, you can really cash in," Santner said.

MARUTI SUZUKI ARENA

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